IN THIS SECTION

ACONSTRUCTION TO



What makes You shall go to the Chinese so the ball (in a successful? FRONT hired frock) PAGES NAME WEDNESDAY REVIEW



Poor to gain in pension revolution

A REVOLUTION in pensions BY ANDREW GRICE was unveiled by the Government vesterday as it promised extra cash for the poor and financial incentives to persuade said it would deepen Britain's inidille-income groups to provide for their own retirement.

Alistair Darling, Social Se-curity Secretary, said his "radical new contract" would double pensions of people earn- the poor. Instead. Mr Darling ing less than 19,000 and lift announced higher national innany workers, mothers and carers off means-tested benefits in their old age.

But his Green Paper re-

Political Editor

from several Labour MPs who "morass of means-testing." They were disappointed that ministers backed away from a compulsory pension scheme encompassing the well-off and surance rebates in a £500m-ayear subsidy to encourage middle-income groups earning £9.000 to £18,500 to join new

"stakeholder" schemes run

Mr Darling feared a universal scheme, in which the rich subsidised the contributions of the low-paid, would be seen as a breach of New Labour's key

pledge not to raise income tax. He said poor pensioners guaranteed minimum pension the long term this would rise in line with earnings, rather than value. But the pledge failed to saving will benefit." quell criticism by Labour MPs, who said the guarantee would

disincentive to people joining future politicians would seek to the stakeholder schemes.

Frank Field, who resigned as Minister for Welfare Reform in July after failing to win Tony Blair's backing for a compulsory-for-all scheme, led the would be protected by a new criticism of the Green Paper. "It means that if you don't bother from April and hoped that over to save you will just pick up this [guaranteed minimum] pension at the end anyway. So the

He said the Green Paper want the "charity" of claiming failed to treat the poor as "equal

mainly by the private sector. extend means-testing and be a citizens", and was worried that take up the new guarantee. "Why should we continue unwind the proposed system. "I cheating them?" Mr Flynn doubt whether the settlement asked. Steve Webb, pension will last. It is doubtful whether spokesman for the Liberal Deit is fair." Other Labour MPs moerats, who back a compulsaid the minimum pension sory system, said relying on guarantee, which in effect incentives for middle-income builds income support into the earners would not solve the basic state pension, would still leave old people with the "stigma" of having to claim it. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said 1 million old folk already

problem of future pensioner poverty. Quentin Davies, Conservative spokesman on pensions. said anyone earning between missed out because they did not £15,000 and £18,000 would be "completely barmy" to save

scheme, because they would be depriving themselves of thousands of pounds of means-test-

ed benefits. Help The Aged said the Green Paper was "weak and disappointing." Mervyn Kohler, the head of

public affairs, said: "It does little to pull today's pensioners out of poverty. The paper does very little to encourage young people to make adequate sav-

But Mr Darling insisted his radical and affordable packincome support and would not under the Government's age would guarantee every-

ings for a pension."

in retirement, and prevent millions more relying on meanstested benefits.

In a coded attack on the scheme drawn up by Mr Field, he said a "convention of rocket pension scientists" could produce all sorts of clever schemes. "What I am interested in is what works," he said.

Referring to Mr Field's brief from Mr Blair to "think the unthinkable," one Government source said: "He produced the unworkable."

Pensions to double, page 4

Chief of FA quits over £3.2m cash scandal

ENGLISH FOOTBALL was in By NICK HARRIS disgrace last night after the resignation of its ruling body's chief executive, Graham Kelly, and a unanimous vote of no confidence in its chairman, Keith Wiseman, following an internal England's chances, it will cerinvestigation into the alleged tainly do nothing to enhance the Isuse of £3.2m of Football As- reputation of the English game Sciation funds.

The FA investigation was centred on Mr Wiseman, who allegedly agreed to deliver grants totalling £3.2m over eight years to the Welsh FA in exchange for votes to support his bid to secure a place on the executive committee of Fifa, world football's governing body.

It is understood that Mr Kelly's signature was on a letcerning the payments to the welsh FA, and it is thought his resignation was primarily through shame by association rather than involvement in any

wrongdoing. The news will not only tarnish the image of the English game but could also be damaging to England's bid to stage the 2096 World Cup. Had Mr Wiseman been elected to Fifa's executive committee, his position would have given him access to the people who will

accused of the 1988 Lockerbie

bombing came a step closer yes-

terday when the Libyan parlia-

ment voted to accept a trial in

for the world's greatest sporting event in 2006. As it is, although the affair will officially have no negative effects on in world football.

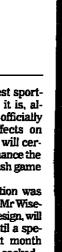
Mr Kelly's resignation man, who declined to resign, will stay in his position until a special FA meeting next month when he is likely to be sacked.

work and wished him well.

ultimately decide the venue

Libyans back plan

for Lockerbie trial



The FA's vice-chairman,

Geoff Thompson, will take the helm at the FA for the immediate future while the FA's director of public affairs, David Davies, will take over as executive director in charge of the daily running of the FA.

At a hastily convened press conference last night, Mr Davies declined to go into specific detail about the affair but read out an official statement.

"The executive committee has this afternoon accepted the resignation of Graham Kelly. They have thanked him for his 10 years of dedicated

"They have also passed a unanimous vote of no confi- resents all sections of the game.



Graham Kelly, who resigned as the Football Association's chief executive in 'shame through association' after an inquiry into alleged misuse of funds

dence in the chairman. Keith It was taken with sadness, and Wiseman. He has declined to resign. The executive will seek endorsement for their action at a
It was not taken lightly. special FA council meeting in

early January. This vote of no confidence was taken unanimously by an executive committee that rep-

only after considerable examination of all the circumstances.

Mr Davies added that yesterday's events will not interfere with the daily work of the FA. "At Lancaster Gate, at Wembley, and everywhere

action, lawvers for General

Augusto Pinochet yesterday

asked the House of Lords to

overturn the decision that the

former Chilean dictator was not

They said that a senior law

lord had allowed a "real danger

of bias" into the earlier hearing

because of his links with

Amnesty International Lord

Hoffmann was also accused

yesterday of having been "an

active and hostile interrogator"

of General Pinochet's counsel.

five senior past and present law

lords to rescind the earlier

panel's decision of 25 November

to overturn the High Court's rul-

It was Lord Hoffmann who

cast the deciding vote which

The lawyers asked a panel of

immune from prosecution.

IN AN unprecedented legal By KIM SENGUPTA

dedicated staff, all of them football supporters who care pas-

sionately about the game. He added that Glenn Hoddle's position as the England coach would not be affected by the changes at the FA and added that the English FA remained committed to staging around the country, we have a the World Cup in 2006.

Pinochet lawyers tell

of bias risk in ruling

cleared the way for the Home

Secretary, Jack Straw, last

Wednesday to authorise that the

83-year-old face an extradition

process launched by Spain on

Clare Montgomery QC, for

General Pinochet, said that Lord

Hoffmann's role in the decision

and the "duration, variety and in-

tensity" of his relationship with

Amnesty "gave rise at the very

least to the real danger of bias".

She said Amnesty must be con-

sidered "one of the principal pro-

tagonists in the extradition

The Independent revealed

yesterday that the general's

solicitors, Kingsley Napley, re-

ceived a letter 10 months ago

relating to an appeal for

proceedings".

human rights charges.

Commenting on the developments, the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, said in a statement: "It is a matter great sadness to hear of events at the FA. However, it is for the internal workings of the FA to resolve

Amnesty, which highlighted

Lord Hoffmann's role. The firm

had given £1,000 in response.

was "some evidence" that both

she and Mr Nicholls should

have known about the connec-

tion between Lord Hoffmann

and Amnesty, when in fact they

did not. She maintained that the

onus of disclosure lay with

the Crown Prosecution Ser-

vice, argued that the general

lawyers had known of the links

Browne-Wilkinson, who said

they would not consider setting

aside just the vote of Lord Hoff-

mann, thus confirming the High

Court decision freeing General

Pinochet. The hearing continues.

The panel included Lord

before Mr Straw's decision.

Alun Jones QC, representing

Lord Hoffmann.

Ms Montgomery said there

the current situation." Kelly's downfall, Sport, page 24

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LONDON - BRISTOL - MANCHESTER -

Holland under Scottish law. would soon be ended. "I think However, the Libyans said that Ther unspecified obstacles they [the Libyans] will move in the right direction," he said.

may yet have to be overcome. The Foreign Office said the move seemed "mildly encouraging". A spokesman added: "At the moment it is only a Libyan media report. We have to be circumspect unless and until we have a formal response." British officials said Libya

Clinton's trials

impeachment

Foreign P11

Foreign P13

Key Republicans are

speaking out in favour of

Allegations of deceit

A Nobel Prize winner is

accused of fabrication

now must make a formal response through the office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. Mr Annan said vesterday

over the two suspects, Abdel Netherlands. This was the Amairliner, killed 270 people.

INSIDE THIS SECTION

THE TRIAL of the two Libyans BY PAUL LASHMAR AND DAVID USBORNE

Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimahmay,

The UN chief conceded that several details were still missing from the resolution passed in Libya and that he would be seeking clarifications from the Libyan ambassador to the UN. Only then, Mr Annan said, would be report to the Security Council on whether the way was cleared for a trial.

While the Libyan resolution had endorsed the plan to hold the trial in a "neutral territory", that he hoped the long deadlock there was no mention of the



venue chosen by Britain and the United States. Nor did it address the matter of where the two men might serve their sentences. London and Washington

insist it should be in Scotland. The bomb, set on board a Pan

Inflation holds steady

rate remained on target

November's inflation

at 2.5 per cent

Business P14

£2.3m move

Sport P26

Keith Gillespie has

signed for Blackburn

INSIDE THE REVIEW

ing of immunity.

The real Christmas message is that women need to be in charge Comment P4

Hunter Davies Why at the age of 62 I am becoming invisible Comment P4

Robert Fisk Peace between Israel and Palestine? The farce continues Comment P5

Penelope Leach The childcare guru answers your questions Features P8

Tutu depressing The departures which threaten the future of the Royal Ballet Arts P10

Theatre critics: why? Paul Taylor defends his professional honour Theatre P11

PAGE 18

Mobile call cuts

slashed next year

Horse P5

Home P10

The cost of calling a

mobile phone will be

Sulfer the children

of poverty in Britain

Children bear the brunt



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'I want to buy my son a flat. But would it be better just to lend him the money?'

YOUR DILEMMAS. VIRGINIA IRONSIDE'S ADVICE, EVERY THURSDAY

FILM: ANTHONY **QUINN REVIEWS** PRINCE OF EGYPT' AND THE WEEK'S OTHER RELEASES **EPLUS LAW**

BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STILL, ROBERT FISK, FERENCE BLACKER JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCEIVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

£2.5m drive to halt smoking

A HARD-HITTING anti-smoking By GLENDA COOPER campaign featuring a mother who has since died from her habit will be launched today to persuade younger people to give up smoking

The £2.5m Health Education Authority advertising campaign features smokers in their thirties and forties who have contracted lung cancer and oral cancer and is aimed at showing young people aged between 16 and 24 the reality behind the image of smoking.

Michelle, a 44-year-old who began smoking when she was 13, died after being filmed for the campaign in November. The advert, in which she talks about her two children's hopes for her survival, is being screened with the permission

Other adverts show Anne, 48. removing her wig to reveal the effects of the treatment she is having for lung cancer and Peter, 39, who has developed cancer of the mouth as a result of smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

"These adverts make painful HEA anti-smoking campaign

Noon today

Social Affairs Correspondent

manager. "They show ordinary people trying to come to terms with what smoking has done to them. They are young and all of them thought it would never

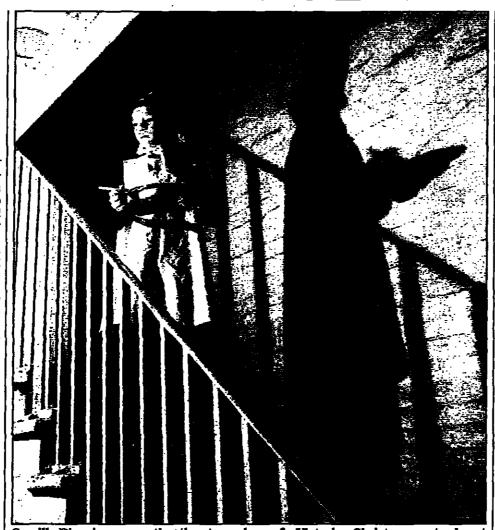
happen to them.' The campaign will run from Boxing Day to No Smoking

The HEA has also created a series of advertisements to run in women's magazines such as Elle and Cosmopoliton to warn young women that smoking can damage their looks. The authority is concerned that nearly 30 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 are regular smokers.

The adverts will focus on how cigarette smoking ages, thins and discolours the skin.

"We need to give young women a message which is pertinent to them," said a spokesman for the HEA. "Young women can have difficulty making the connection between smoking and long-term illness viewing," said Katie Aston, but they can visualise what smoking does to their skin."

BRITAIN TODAY



Camilla Rix, nine, recreating the atmosphere of a Victorian Christmas yesterday at the National Trust's Southwell workhouse, Nottinghamshire

YESTERDAY

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0 0.35 0 0.24

RAIN OR

SHINE...

FORGET BETTING on a white

Christmas - bookmakers

have slashed the odds on this

year's being the warmest

Christmas Day this century.

William Hill has already

knocked the odds down to

5-1 that England's record

temperature of 60.1F (15.6C)

in Devon in 1920 will be com-

fortably beaten. A white

Christmas in London or

Cardiff is placed at 6-1 and

snow in Glasgow at 4-1.

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LIGHTING UP

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AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

NO₂ Mod Mod Good Mod Good Good Good

WEATHERLINE

SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

Judge denies LVF leader's pistol appeal

A MAN described in court as BY DAVID MCKITTRICK leader of the Loyalist Volunteer Force sought to secure his release yesterday on the grounds that a gun used in a recent shooting incident was covered by an official arms decommissioning certificate.

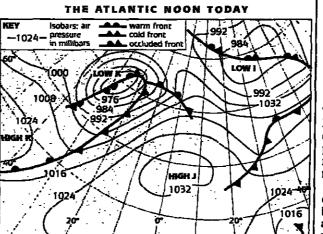
Mark Fulton was refused bail in the Northern Ireland High Court, the judge telling him that the ordinary law had to run its course.

Fulton is charged with posessing a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life in the early hours of Saturday, 5 December, in Portadown.

He was named in court as leader of the LVF, the group headed by Billy "King Rat" Wright until his murder by

republicans a year ago Mr Fulton's bail application





Low K will move quickly north-east. Low I will drift east and fill and high J will sink south. High K will move east.

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Calgary C -130	Kasheepde f 17 63	Parts : 948	Washington 5 7 45
Cape Town c 23 73	Mer fg 0 32	Paking 5 17 52	Wellington (16 61
Caracas c 30 85	Magaton 5 30 86	Perth 1 33 91	Zagreb n/a

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

was based on the assertion

Ireland Correspondent

that he possessed a certificate issued by the Northern Ireland decommissioning body. which is headed by the Canadian General John de Chastelain. Such certificates are meant to give immunity to representatives of paramilitary organisations who are transporting weapons for the pur-

Opposing the application, crown counsel said witnesses had seen Mr Fulton produce a semi-automatic pistol and fire several shots in the air. He was then said to have put the

gun to the head of a passer-by. Mr Fulton's counsel claimed that two men had appeared, fired the gun, then handed it to him and disappeared.

It was said that when he saw a man crouching on the ground he had grabbed him by the shoulders and told him he was in no danger. Lord Justice Campbell,

refusing bail, said that Mr Fulton had been outside the limits of the document by carrying a loaded weapon.

An LVF statement, issued after the hearing, repeated its appointing a second person to iaise with the decommissionBicke hunts fathe

uncov

2011

1000

It has been reported that the decommissioning body issued a certificate to the LVF, for the period 1 to 18 December, but this was rescinded shortly after the shooting incident. Last month Mo Mowlam

Northern Ireland Secretary, announced that the Government was recognising the ceasefire called in May by the LVF.

The Portadown-based LVF is unique among paramilitary groups in promising early decommissioning of some weapons in exchange for the recognition of its ceasefire. Last month, however, it shelved plans for imminent decommissioning because it was offended by "insensitive" remarks by Unionist MP Ken Maginnis, who described LVF members as ruthless sectarian killers. Optimism was growing in Belfast last night that agreement in the long-running dispute on the structures of government for Northern Ireland was close. The Ulster Unionists and the nationalist SDLP were confident they would have the impasse broken by Christmas - most likely this previous pledge that an act of week. Talks between the two decommissioning would take groups continued at Stormont.

More trees for England's woods

THE FORESTS and woodlands of By MICHAEL MCCARTHY England are to be substantially expanded, with the rate of tree planting likely to double over the next five years, the Government promised yesterday.

The plan will bring jobs to the countryside, new life to derelict land, opportunities for leisure and tourism and safe havens for wildlife, said Elliot Morley, the Agriculture minister, launching the England Forestry Strategy.

The new programme, which will be followed by separate strategies for Wales and Scotland, is believed to be the first practical result of the Government's devolution proposals. and the first major forwardlooking policy to deal with Engiand alone.

It reverses the Conservatives' aim of getting the state out of forestry ownership, which resulted in large sell-offs of the Forestry Commission's extensive woodlands in the Eighties and early Nineties.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced in the summer that the sell-offs to private owners were being ended, and yesterday's announcement is intended to enshrine a new partnership between the pubEnvironment Corresponde

lic and private sectors to promote forests' use and growth. Tree cover in England, at 7 per cent of surface area, is one of the smallest proportions in Europe.

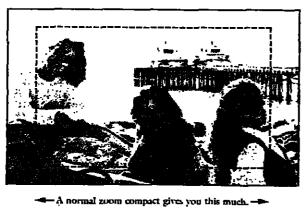
The strategy's main thrust is that England's forests will be officially recognised as having multiple purposes, rather than just be maintained as tree farms of the type that blighted much of the post-war landscape with serried ranks of dark conifers.

"The days of single-use forestry, with acres and acres of Sitka spruce, are over," Mi Morley said. "Woods and forests boast the most diverse range of benefits, for both people and wildlife, of any land use, but we have not yet begun to realise their potential fully. To achieve this, foresters are, for the first time, looking outwards ... and saying to others, 'look how forestry can help you."

Other government departments would be brought in alongside the Ministry of Agriculture and might provide an extra £40m to add to the Forestry Commission's £40m annual budget.

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FORECAST

General situation Scotland will be very windy with gales in the north and west where there will be rain. some of it heavy. However, it will be mild and most places will stay dry with some sunshine breaking through. Winds will tout gale force across Northern Ireland and there will be a lot of cloud with some drizzle breaking out. Wales and much of northern and western England will be windy, but dry with summy periods. The rest of England will be less windy with some suriny spells.

Cent S & SE England, London, Channel Is, E Angila, Midlands; Farly mild and staying dry with some decent sunny spells. A light south to south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

Wales, SW England, Cent N & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Remains dry with some sunshine, but rather windy. A fresh to strong southerly wind. Max remp 9-12C (48-54F).

E & NE England: Staying dry but breezy Sunny spells, especially along the coast. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F)

N freland: Very windy but mild. Rather cloudy with some drizzle in the north and west. Suriny spells elsewhere. A strong to gale force southerly wind. Max temp 10-13C [50-55F].

NW Scotland, W & N Isles: Very wandy with spells of rain, some of them neavy. A gale force southerly wind. May temp 9-11C (48-52F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow: Strong winds and some patchy drizzle, but rem mild. A strong southerly wind. Man temp 10-12C (50-54F).

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Forumo Green. Major works at Finchley Rd Gyratory Until 31st December. Cambridgeshire A1 between Alcohoury and Haddon. Construction. Jane closures and contrallow. Until 31st December.

and contration, 17th 315 December 1.

Buckinghamshine: 1350 Domeen junctors to (M23) 6 3 (Wycombo East) Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in longs. Until 1st January 1999

Bristol: M5 J18-19 Major Readworks on Avromouth Bridge Until 1st January 2001.

Lancashine: M6 Between J27 Standish and J28 Leytand Roadworks, contraflow and a

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Mild and mostly dry with sunny spells, but more cloud in the north where there is the risk of some druzzle. A strong south to south-westerly wind, Max temp 9-12C [48-54F]

A band of rain will opread south-eastwards on Thursday, clearing to leave showers in the north and west. A further spell of rain is likely in the north and west on Friday Saturday will become colder with show showers in Scotland.

50mph speed first either side of Chamod-Richard Services Until 15th February 1999. West Yorkshire: M1 Between J42 Lotthouse

West Yorkshire: M1 Between J42 Lotthouse Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourton. Roadworks and a 50mph speed firmt. Until 31st December 1998. Cumbries: M6 J37 Kendal Floadworks, cartageway reduced to 2 lanes both ways with a 50mph speed limit, it mile south of the punction. Until 18th January 1999. AA Roadwaade: Call 0336 401777 for the bass tool and national traffic news. Source. The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (Inc VAT).

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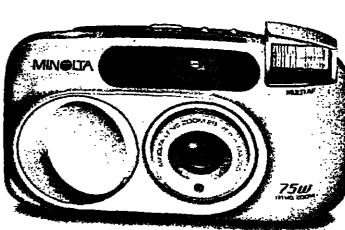
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Wednesday 16 December 1998

· DEPENDENT

I REVIEWS

FRELEASES

Exhumed again: the macabre Ties suicide riddle of God's Banker

no rest. Sixteen years have passed since that damp June morning when Leonid Brozhnev still ruled the Soviet Union, Britain had just won the Falklands conflict and the body of Roberto Calvi was found hanging from the scaffolding beneath a bridge across the river Thames. Today, that same

corpse - or at least the bones and husk, which are most likely all that remain - will be exhumed, vet again, from the cemetery at Drezzo in northern Italy where he was buried in November 1982. Yet another autopsy - the fourth in all - will be conducted. Those whose legaes are great unsolved crimi-Il mysteries must forego the dignity of peace in death.

Calvi was "God's Banker", a financial accomplice of the Vatican, with which he set up a network of secret tiny companies. shielded behind a wall of banks stretching from Europe to Latin America, Alas, the empire was rotten to the core.

Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano had debts of almost \$1,300m, run up with the connivance of the IOR, the Vatican bank. He as a creature of the shadows on had supped with the devil to cement his power. Clerics, the corrupt politicians of the old Italy, the sinister P-2 masonic lodge, leech-like middlemen and gangsters - all successively dealt with Calvi, exploited him and betrayed him.

Then the incredible denouement - the flight to London under a false passport, the collapse of Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private-sector bank and. ame terrible night, the macabre end under Blackfriars Bridge, the body clad in a rumpled suit, pockets stuffed with banknotes and builders' stones. Was it suicide or murder? And if the latter, by whom? It was the biggest and most lurid bankruptcy in history.

And now, literally, it is being dug up again. The autopsy has been brought about by charges of conspiracy to murder Calvi levelled last year by magistrates in Rome against four men - his last confidant, Flavio jaboni, Sardinian business-ท์เด็ก and middleman with the Mob; Pippo Calo, the "financial director" of Cosa Nostra; Francesco "Frankie the Strangler" Di Carlo, who used to be the Mafia's man in London; and the alleged killer. Vicenzo Casillo. These are the first murder charges brought in the case, spurred by revelations of Mafia pentiti, or turncoats. Calvi, allegedly, had embezzled their

unnamed suitor.

at almost £160m.

the disgraced directors who

prompted a boardroom exo-

dus when they returned to the

Jouglas Hall could expect to pocket a cash windfall worth

more than £90m, while Shep-

herd would receive around

£13m. Between them, the duo

Newcastle board last week.

EVEN IN death there is, for By RUPERT CORNWELL

money and had received the only possible punishment. That may or may not be so. But to one thing I can testify. He was a man who lived in fear. I met Calvi on 17 April 1982,

two months to the day he died. He was passportless, awaiting sentencing after being convicted of currency offences. Palpably, the net around him was tightening. I was the Financial Times' correspondent in Rome; in Calvi's typically roundabout fashion, after vetting lunches with intermediaries, I had been offered an interview - a last attempt by a man who normally loathed the press to persuade other bankers and the business and political élite of Italy that all was well at Banco Ambrosiano.

We spoke in a windowless anteroom in the bowels of his office building. He was nervous and drained, slumped in a chair. As he answered my questions, he drummed his fingers on the edge of his desk. Everyone was conspiring against him, he said; why could he not just be left in peace? My last sight was of a slightly overweight man slouching wearily away down an ill-lit corridor. Little did I imagine that 17 months later I would be publishing a book about him.

The article I wrote for the FT was even-handed, but would quickly appear ludicrously naive. Within weeks, Ambrosiano's fate was sealed. Carboni, his last protector, accompanied Calvi to London, a city he hardly knew and where Ambrosiano did not even have an office. The conclusion of the Rome magistrates is the Sardinian was leading him to a ore-arranged death.

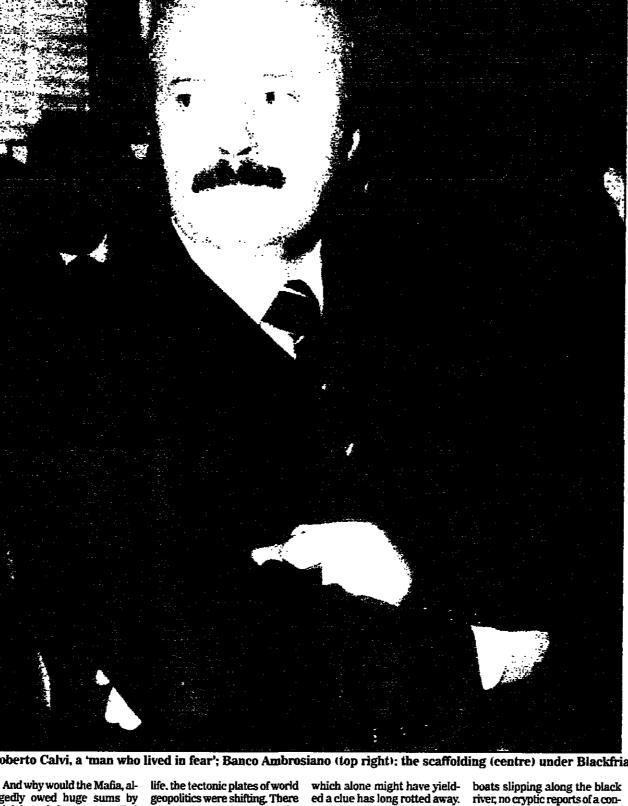
The Matia "confessions" are the biggest development in the story for 10 years. But even they may amount to little, for these are thieves without the slightest honour. The story of Calvi is populated by liars and scoundrels. Casillo, alleged to have been the man who strangled him, just happens to have been blown to bits in a car bombing in 1983. Carboni denies everything. So who to believe?

To this day, no important witness has come forward. On the Thames, no-one heard or saw anything. Of course, hanging yourself from a bridge is a peculiar means of suicide if in your hotel room you have a suitcase full of barbiturates. But drugging someone and then balancing on a boat to string him from scaffolding is an equally odd method of murder.

legedly owed huge sums by Calvi, have left \$10,700 stuffed in his pockets? Yes, it might have been a murder dressed up as a suicide. But it could equally have been a suicide intend-

The second likelihood. involves the Mafia, Those who cross the honoured society are usually liquidated by it. Carboni's contacts notably included Di Carlo, who was based in London at the time, handling Mafia drug trafficking. Though he claims to have been in Rome at the time of the murder, he could easily have organised it. And a Calvi on trial in Italy, seeking to buy leniency by

a common criminal. His perhe was the most undistinguished and commonplace of men. But he did move amid



Roberto Calvi, a 'man who lived in fear'; Banco Ambrosiano (top right); the scaffolding (centre) under Blackfriars Bridge (bottom) where his body was found hanging

was a Polish pope in undeclared alliance with Ronald Reagan's White House to overthrow the evil Soviet empire. Poland, where nationalism and ed to look like murder. Calvi had Catholicism were one, was the a \$3m life insurance policy. epicentre of their labours

told me his client claimed to

have channelled \$50m to aid the

Vatican's Ostpolitik in general

and the independent Polish

trade union, Solidarity, in par-

ticular. "If the whole thing

comes out," he murmured in

his conspiratorial way, "it'll be

enough to start the third world

war." Thus the final, and most

sensational theory. It rests, like

the second on the risk posed by

a man with nothing to lose.

blurting out the truth. Except

that this truth would be truly

sensational - of how Banco

Ambrosiano was financing the

church which was financing

the trade union which would un-

dermine the country whose loss would set in motion the col-

then of the Soviet Union.

So we are left, now as then. with three broad possibilities. The first is suicide - not an unreasonable supposition in the case of a man on the run from justice, trapped without friends or valid passport in a foreign city, who learns that the bank he runs has collapsed, leaving the prospect only of ruin, prison and disgrace. Suicide seems to have been the option chosen by Robert Maxwell under marginally less desperate circumstances. So why not Calvi?

stronger after the 1997 arrests, telling investigators all he knew. was not an amusing prospect.

But in so exotic a tale, for Calvi to have been the victim of a common Mafia hit would be anti-climactic. Certainly, he was verted financial talents aside,

In the last three years of his

So we may continue to believe what we will - which is the charm of unsolved mysteries.

Each time I pass Blackfriars while, I even dream about imagine him walking east along Six months after his death, them. But in my dream there its embankments, aimless and Calvi's lawyer Giorgio Gregori are no silent assassins, no in despair. Then, at the first

tract completed. In this dream I see a man broken and with nowhere to turn, leaving Chelsea Cloisters. Perhaps Bridge, my mind goes back to without knowing it. he makes Calvi's last hours. Once in a his way towards the river. I

glimmer of dawn there is the bridge, the glimpse of a ladder, the scaffolding, the rope and stones lying in a nearby build-ing site and, finally, the self-inflicted death.

But in another sense, Calvi was murdered - murdered by those he had turned to for help but who merely frightened and plundered him: the IOR, the P-

2. the politicians, the Mafia. Which of them pushed him over the edge, I do not know. But on that June night, death for Roberto Calvi was a damnation – but also a release.

Rupert Cornwell wrote 'God's Banker , a biography of Roberto Calvi, published by Victor Gollancz in 1983

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THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

NEWCASTLE UNITED could be By PETER THAL LARSEN following Manchester United into the arms of a corporate control 65.6 per cent of the club - enough to wave through owner, after the Premier any takeover. League football club yester-

The identity of the suitor day admitted receiving a remained a mystery last night takeover approach from an as Sony, the Japanese elec-The offer, which Newcastle tronics giant which had been linked with the club, denied it revealed in a brief announcement to the London Stock Exhad any interest in Newcastle.

Time Warner, the US enterchange, would be pitched at tainment giant and Carlton and around 110p per Newcastle United share, valuing the club United News & Media, the television groups, have also been A successful takeover would exploring the possibility of buymean a bonanza for Douglas ing a club in the wake of Hall and Freddie Shepherd.

BSkyB's offer. Newcastle However, stressed that a formal offer would have to wait until the Monopolies and Mergers Commission delivers its report on British Sky Broadcasting's proposed £625m takeover of Manchester United next year.

Newcastle are coached by



Douglas Hall: May receive windfall worth over £90m

charismatic Dutchman Ruud Gulfit and its squad includes England striker Alan Shearer. However the team is currently languishing in 15th place in the 20-team Premier League. A successful takeover would

Its dismal reputation in the City where investors have lost all faith in the club, has added to the belief that a takeover bid might succeed - even if it was pitched below the 130p at which Newcastle shares were sold to investors last summer.

Newcastle United plc, the hold-

ing company for the football

club, prompting the resignation

of the chairman and two non-

Like other clubs, Newcastle

have been at the centre of bid

speculation ever since BSkyB

announced plans to buy Man-

executive directors.

chester United

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Pensions for low earners set to double

STATE PENSIONS for workers BY ANDREW GRICE on low incomes will double under far-reaching changes to the system, the Government announced yesterday.

A long-awaited Green Paper said that the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps), for those without company or personal pensions, would be replaced by a new "state second

Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, told the Commons that up to five million people would benefit from the biggest change to the pensions system in 25 years. A person earning £6,000 a year, who would currently receive £13 a week from Serps, would receive £46 a week under

boost the pensions of 2.5 million carers - mothers who take a career break after having children, and those looking after sick or elderly relatives. Parents of 200,000 disabled children, and 1.5 million long-term disabled people with an interrupted work record would also

those who earn less than £9,000

Political Editor

a year but ministers also hope to encourage middle-income groups (earning between £9,000 and £18,500) to take out "stakeholder pensions", which would provided mainly by the private

"Our long-term ambition is that everyone earning more than £9,000 a year should be in a secure, funded, private pension," said Mr Darling. Stake-holder pensions would be more secure and flexible, and of higher quality than existing private pensions.

The Government is to spend £500m a year – a total of £5bn over 50 years - to encourage The scheme would also middle-income earners without pensions to join a stakeholder scheme by giving them larger National Insurance rebates. This would enable a worker on £12,000 a year to increase their pension income by £1,000 a

> Stakeholder schemes are due on the market by 2001. The Government plans by about 2006 to increase financial incentives for those earning

over £9,000 a year to join one. If they remain in Serps or join the state second pension they will be worse off.

But Mr Darling rejected the idea of making the new system compulsory. "I believe these incentives are fairer and more efbe Government-backed but fective than increasing compulsion," he said. "I do not think it is the Government's job to make life harder for the person on £12,000 with two children and a mortgage to pay. I want to help middle earners, not penalise them."

The Minister said that forcing low earners to save would not guarantee them an adeuate pension, as they could not afford the contributions, while it would be "perverse" to order the well-off to save more than they needed. The issue of compulsion for the self-employed would remain under review.

The Government will encourage the one million employees who opt out of company schemes to sign up. Firms will be allowed to make joining a condition of employment unless employees can show they will be better off taking out anoth-



Alistair Darling visiting Sainsbury's headquarters yesterday when he announced the pensions reforms Tom Craig

act now, Mr Darling said, one in three of today's workers would be forced to rely on Income Support in retirement.

Despite the injection of taxpayers' money through higher rehates, the state share of the nation's pensions bill will decline in the long term, as people make more provision for themselves. Now 60 per cent comes from the Government If the Government did not and 40 per cent from individu-

als - a share-out that Mr Dar- fits. But for today's pensioners, ling promised to reverse.

their retirement has a respon- in April, which would give sibility to do so," he said. "In 1.5 million pensioners almost turn, the Government has a responsibility to provide security for those who cannot save

Mr Darling said his radical, affordable scheme would reduce the number of pensioners relying on means-tested bene-

the Government would bring in "Everyone who can save for a minimum pension guarantee £400 a year extra. It would be worth £75 a week for a single

> This would, in effect, build Income Support payments into the basic pension, but it would

pensioner, and £116 for a cou-

other income - such as from company schemes. Mr Darling said that he

hoped the minimum pension would be increased in line with earnings rather than prices in the long term.

He pledged that the basic state pension - which increases to £64.70 for a single person and £163.40 for a couple in April not be payable to those with be means-tested. But it would

MAKING ENDS MEET

Examples from the Green Paper:

1. Man starts work at 16 as £6,500p.a. mechanic. From age 40 has shortterm jobs; goes part-time at 60. No private pensions. Current income: state pension of £49 a week. New system: state pension of £82 a week.

Female graduate, takes £14,500p.a. insurance job. After marriage stops work to raise three children. Returns at 35, earning £12,000 and retires at 65.

Current income: state pension £32, personal pension £65. Total £97 a week. New system: state pension £42, personal pension £74. Total £116 a week.

3. Man leaves college at 20, becomes lab assistant. Joins multi-national, retires at 60 on £15,000 salary and company pension. Current income: state pension £32, company pension £119. Total £151 a week. New system: state pension £32, company pension £134. Total £166 a week.

continue to rise in line with prices rather than earnings

and so would decline in value. ·The Minister said that it would cost £30bn to restore the link between the basic pension and earnings, which was severed by the Tories in 1979. This would give money to better-off pensioners who did not need it while the poor would be -would remain, and would not better protected by the guar-



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Search for Iona victims suspended

SEARCH TEAMS trying to locate BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE the bodies of three men, missing after their dinghy capsized off a tiny Scottish island, were officially stood down last night as hopes faded for recovery.

Coastguards said that the operation would be suspended until the weekend and then widened. Experience has taught them that if the bodies do not appear within the first was washed ashore shortly week or more before they are finally washed ashore.

view, we are standing down. It will give the men a chance to have a rest." said Kenny Devine, the Oban sector manager for HM Coastguard. "But the police will still be here, as will the volunteers. These are local people and they want to do what they can to get a result and find the bodies.

"The mood amongst the search teams is sombre. They are very disappointed that they have not been able to find any-

"After the first day, when there were a number of finds, people had been hopeful of finding more, but that has not been the case. But they are still determined to carry on." It is now more than four days been giving support to the

on Iona

since the five men capsized as they returned to Iona after a Christmas dance on the neighbouring island of Mull. The sole survivor, Gordon Grant, 33, managed to swim ashore and raise the alarm. The body of Robert Hay, 23,

24. Alisdair Dougal, 19, and David Kirkpatrick, 23, are still "From an official point of missing. All the men lived and worked on Iona. The tiny community, which has fewer than 90 residents,

was in a dark mood yesterday as it waited for news from the search team. One local woman, who did not want to be named, said: "You only have to use your

imagination to know what it's like. Imagine the worst and you are probably not far from the truth.

This is a tiny community and there is not a person here who has not been affected by

what has happened." The Rev David Taylor, the local Church of Scotland minister, has been visiting the families of the victims. He has also

search teams returning each evening at 4pm as darkness

"The men are going out to look for the bodies of their own sons," he said. "They are coming home at the end of the day and they are frustrated and exhausted. Their emotions are

"At 4.30pm yesterday, the men had returned to the island and they had not found any thing. There was a sense of despair and there was no comforting them. I think it would help a great deal if they could find the bodies."

Mr Taylor said that he had also spoken to Mrs Grant, whose son has left hospital in Oban for an undisclosed log-tion. "She knows that her son will be under great trauma when he gets back," he said.

As force seven gales and driving rain continued to batter Iona last night, coastguards were not optimistic about the chances of finding the men's bodies. There have been previous cases when bodies have

been lost at sea for months. The body of one woman who recently drowned here reappeared several months later. washed ashore on the Isle of Skye, 50 miles to the north.

IN BRIEF

Union must explain £6m loss The GMB leader, John Edmonds, is under pressure from

members to explain a £6m loss from union funds to a company that was dissolved before paying money due for union land. The union was criticised for borrowing £2.5m from its pension fund, allegedly to make up the shortfall. It said the borrowed £2.5m was part of the package tied up before the company reneged on the £6m payment.

'Ear print' nails woman's killer A MAN HAS been convicted of murdering a 94-year-old spinster on the evidence of an "ear print", in what is believed to be a legal first. Mark Dallagher, 25, from Huddersfield, was caught after police matched his ear with an imprint left at the victim's home. Dallagher was jailed for life at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

Barnardo's worker is jailed A FORMER house parent at a Barnardo's children's home was jailed for 11 years for "wicked" cruelty and sexual abuse against children in his care. Philip Dunne, 52, of Worcester, repeatedly abused 13 children at the Spring Hill home in Ripon, North Yorkshire, between 1967 and 1974, York Crown Court was told.

Nail spill leaves drivers punctured DOZENS OF drivers who were stranded for one-and-a-half hours when a lorry crashed into the central reservation of the M4 at Reading and scattered its load of nails drove on to find punctures brought their cars to a standstill. Some drivers got 20 miles before grinding to a halt.

HUNTER DAVIES



The young are never ignored. But with age. we all begin to fade IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

Schools in Wales told 'do better'

BY JUDITH JUDD **Education Editor**

WELSH SCHOOLS must do better at A-level, Peter Hain, Education Minister at the Welsh Office said yesterday.

Exam results for Welsh schools show that the average A-level point score per pupil re-mained at 16 - two Cs and a D for the third year running. The comparable figure for English schools this year was 17.8. (The point score covers 10 for an A

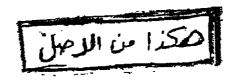
down to 2 for an E.)

More Welsh pupils than ever before were awarded five good grades at GCSE. The percentage of pupils who scored five or more A*-C grades rose from 44 per cent last year to 46 per cent. The comparable figures for England were 45.1 per cent

and 46.3 per cent.
At GCSE, the top school was St John's College, a Cardiff in-dependent school, where all pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades. At A-level, another Cardiff independent school, New College, was top with an average of 25 points each.

Mr Hain said he was en.

couraged that Wales appeared to be closing the gap with England on most key indicators.



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Phone firms told to cut mobile rates

THE COST of calling a mobile BY PETER THAL LARSEN phone from a fixed line will be after the competition authorities found that British Telecom. Vodafone and Cellnet were minute by 2001. overcharging. The move will save customers an estimated on Vodafone and Celinet's netgibn in call charges over the works - where customers are next three years. Comparation of the second seco

From next April, it will cost 22p a minute to call a mobile phone from a British Telecom line during peak hours, com-

slashed by a quarter next year pared to about 30p a minute at present. Further reductions will bring that down to 19.5p a

Charges for unanswered calls told that either the person they are calling has switched off their phone or is out of the network's range - will also be scrapped. Oftel, the telecoms watch-

for the calls.

dog, estimates that if other operators make similar cuts the total saving on phone bills will add up to £1bn over the next three years.

The cuts have been ordered after a nine-month investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that British Telecom, Vodafone and public interest by overcharging

launched in March after Don shank also argued that British two newer mobile phone operdirector-general, said the charges were a "rip off".

He argued that although competition between mobile phone operators for customers is intense, users pay more attention to the cost of outgoing rather than incoming calls Cellnet were acting against the when they decide which network to use. This allowed mobile phone operators to keep The investigation was their prices high. Mr Cruick-

Cruickshank, Oftel's former Telecom was charging too ators, were not under investimuch on the calls it delivers to mobile phone networks.

David Edmonds, who took over from Mr Cruickshank as director-general,

"Throughout the investigation we have argued that these charges were much too high. The results of this inquiry totally vindicate the work that Oftel did."

Orange and One2One, the cut in charges next April, to be reductions continue the down-

gation and have not directly been ordered to cut their prices. But Mr Edmonds said he would be watching both companies carefully.

The cuts were welcomed by consumer groups as a sign that the regulator was committed to reducing the costs of mobile phone calls.

Oftel has ordered a one-off

then be reviewed.

The reductions will slash \$100m off British Telecom's some of the shortfall by enprofits next year. However, the telecom giant pointed out that vantage of cheaper prices and prices had been falling anyway.

Ian Morfett, BT's managing director of products and solutions, said: "The likely

followed by a price cap which ward trend in prices for calling requires telephone companies from a BT line to a mobile to reduce prices for the follow- phone, with prices already 20 ing two years. The price cap will per cent lower than two years

> BT is hoping to make up couraging people to take adcall mobile phones more often. The company is planning an advertising campaign next year to tell its customers about the

Bickerstaffe hunts for a father and uncovers a family

FOR ALMOST half a century Rodney Bickerstaffe wondered who his real father was.

The ambitious leader of Unison - Britain's biggest union knew where he was going. But not where he came from. A family story cast him as the love-child of a pretty young nurse from Yorkshire who had a brief romance with an Irish carpenter in wartime London.

Fifty years later, the tale came true in a quiet Dublin restaurant where he was reunited with three Irish brothers he never knew existed.

Rodney, 53, fought to hold back the tears as he declared "It's wonderful Suddenly I've got a whole new family and they're such lovely, friendly people."

The story goes back to the 1830s when the Bickerstaffes began migrating from the village that bears their name near Ormskirk, Lancashire. Some of them settled in the mining country of South Yorkshire, where the living was hard. His great-grandmother Elizabeth died in the Doncaster workhouse as late as 1925.

Rodney's mother, also called Elizabeth, was born in 1920, the eldest of 10 children. At one time, the family was so poor they lived in a railway carriage in a gypsy field. But Elizabeth worked her way through high school and was training as agurse when the Second World • broke out. She finished her training in Whipps Cross hospital, east London, when Nazi bombers were wreaking havoc. One day in 1944, a young Irishman walked into casualty com-

plaining of stomach pains. The man was Tommy Simpson, who was working in the capital with his father. He was handsome and charming, and soon he and Elizabeth were courting. In the way of wartime romances, Elizabeth found herself pregnant in the summer of 1944. But Tommy went ack to Dublin and never got 🖍 a touch again.

The abandoned young nurse gave birth to Rodney Kevan Bickerstaffe in Queen Charlotte's hospital, Hammersmith, west London, on 6 April 1945. She wrote to Tommy's sister to let the family know she had his son but there the contact ended.

In those days, there was still a stigma attached to single motherhood. Rodney even had a special birth certificate, Elizabeth raised her baby in caster Grammar School.

By Paul Routledge



The brothers getting to know each other in Dublin: from left, Tommy, Peter, Liam and Rodney. Left, Tommy Simpson, the father Rodney Bickerstaffe never met an unmarried mother's home and then moved to the University Settlement in Bethnal, east

shared a bedroom in the rented Victorian semi occupied by sometimes as many as 10 of the Bickerstaffe family. Elizabeth was determined to build a new life for herself. She took a job as a nurse in the

local day nursery, eventually

London, where she worked as

nurse to a professor. When Rod-

ney was two she moved back to

Doncaster to live with her for-

giving parents. Mother and son

rising to be matron. Gawky, bespectacled Rodney learnt the rudiments of the three Rs there. In the school playground he fought with boys who taunted him about not having a father. "I think I gave one of them a bit of a thrashing, even though he was bigger than me," he admitted.

When he was 11. Elizabeth asked him if he would mind her marrying Norman Topham, a local man whose marriage had ended in divorce. Rodney knew Norman's son, Peter, who was three months younger than him and was at the same school. Elizabeth and Norman married, and she destroyed virtually everything she had saved from the fling with Tommy, except for one small picture.

"She started life all over again," Rodney recollected. My new dad was as good as gold. He was a wonderful guy." All thought of his natural father went out of the window. But he kept the name Bickerwhich did not name the father. staffe and won a place at Don-

The rest of Rodney's career is history: His rise in the public employees' union Nune and his coup in bringing together three unions to form a single public service union. And his determination to achieve a national minimum wage - which will happen next April.

His passion for trade unionism was inherited from his mother, who joined Nupe as a trainee nurse in 1940 and is still a union member 58 years later. The extraordinary story

might have ended years ago. with no one any the wiser about his "other family" in Ireland. But when Norman Topham died in 1990, Rodney began to ask his mother for more details of his origins. It was an emotional ordeal for his mum. But she told him the facts of her wartime romance.

Rodney did not strenuously try to find his natural father. - after discussing it with his whom she built a new life in Doncaster wife and when his mother, now 78, had fought off cancer - he finally decided to look for him.

His mother divulged a lastknown address in Cabra, on the outskirts of Dublin. In late September, he was in the Irish capital for a union conference "I took a taxi to the street and knocked on the door," he told me. "There was no one in but a next-door neighbour said the home was still owned by the Simpson family."

The elderly neighbour mentioned that another member of the family lived a couple of miles away. Rodney decided that this man, 88, was too el- I was about to board a plane. Liam, 47, and Frances, 45. struck me that after 54 years



until in the spring of this year Elizabeth Bickerstaffe with the young Rodney, with

derly for such a shock. He She wanted to see what I simply told him that they might looked like and I said I would be related, and the old man offered to get his daughter Ann to speak to him later. Rodney had to catch an aircraft but telephoned Ann as soon as he got to Dublin airport.

"This is a strange story," he told her. "There's no simple way to say it, other than we are cousins. You had an uncle Tommy. He was my father."

Rodney recalled: "I explained enough for her to believe me. I said I was a trade union leader in England, and

be appearing on Question Time the following Thursday. I asked if her uncle Tommy was still alive and she said no, he had died in 1991." Then came the big shock.

On his return to Dublin from England in the Forties, Tommy Simpson had married a local girl, Eileen, now also dead. Scarcely able to contain himself, Rodney asked: "Did they have any children?" "Yes." Ann said. "You have got three

They were all married. Four of there would still be anybody liv-Tommy's sisters also survived. ing at the address my mother

They agreed to leave things until after the Labour Party conference, starting in Blackpool that weekend. Events moved quickly, however. His aunt Maureen, who had been unaware of the secret, spoke to him on the phone and broke the news to his brothers.

Tom's wife, Breda, was vacuuming the house the next morning when Rodney appeared live on Breakfast with Frost. "It's him!" she shouted to her husband. Tom leaped out of bed and exclaimed: "He's the

image of my father." Once they began talking. remarkable similarities between the families emerged. They were both steeped in trade unionism - Tom's mother had been a pioneer of the Irish Women Workers' Union. Rodney and his brothers had both been partly brought up in their grandparents' home -Tommy Simpson's marriage broke down after a few years

and he returned to England. Son Tom had watched Rodney speaking at the Labour Party conference without realising he was his brother. "I used to see this Buddy Holly figure and think 'He's a man

after my own heart'," he said. Once they got over the shock, the three brothers welcomed Rodney with open arms. Rodney himself had had doubts before setting off on his voyage of self-discovery. He said: "I wanted to shut down brothers." Tom Simpson, 49, the story because it never

gave me. I hoped to find something but I didn't expect to."

He talked to Clare Short who had recently rediscovered her long-lost son, Toby about how to handle the experience and discussed it with his mother. He said: "She was sorry that Tommy had died but it had been such a long, long time... she's a very proud person, a strong person, a very independent person - a real tyke.

'My reaction was first, I've got this new extended family, and second, that the Irish connection is fascinating. I have had a very full and happy life... But at my time of life it's a wonderful bonus."

It has meant a few jokes at his expense. Pauline Prescott. the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister, smiled: "I always knew he had kissed the Blarney stone." And Tony Blair, who privately met up with Rodney and Tom at Westminster, joked: "Fancy waking up in the morning and finding that you have got Rodney for a brother."

The Unison leader said: "Tony thought it was a great story and said how pleased he was." Tom said: "The mums were the heroines, bringing us up on their own. They had a real struggle. It was blood, sweat and tears."

But the tears were not for nothing, as the happy faces round that Dublin restaurant showed.

This article was first published in yesterday's edition of

Speedy rail sale 'lost' £1.5bn

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

TAXPAYERS MAY have lost out on hundreds of millions of pounds from the privatisation of Railtrack because of the Tories' haste in selling off British Rail, according to a report by the Government's watchdog.

The National Audit Office said ministers pressed for a quick sale to get all Railtrack shares into the private sector

before Labour came to power. In a report out today, it said a phased sale, which would have left the new government with a substantial stake, could

have raised an extra £1.5bn. The NAO said the Government and its financial advisers started with a presumption of a one-off sale. Its report recommends that any future privatisations are carried out on the basis that a phased sale would get better value for money.

Other key findings include: ■ Appointing one City firm. SBC Warburg, as adviser andcoordinator of the flotation led to "potential conflicts of interest". Shareholders were offered a "sweetener" in the form of a £69m dividend to make the deal comparable with other selloffs. The NAO said the correct comparison was other investment opportunities at the time; ■ A decision to structure the split between debt and share capital in order to support the Thameslink 2000 project could have cut Treasury proceeds by another £225m.

David Davis MP chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC), said: "The flotation of Railtrack is yet another case where a failure to apply PAC recommendations has caused the taxpayer to lose out, this time to the tune of some £1.5bn, in an otherwise successful privatisation."

The former track and signalling business of BR was floated on the stock market in May 1996 for £2.5bn. The shares have surged since then Earlier this year the company was worth about £8bn.

Sir John Bourn, head of the NAO, said: "The increase in Railtrack's share price suggests that a phased sale, if it had been achievable, would have been likely to yield much larger returns than a sale of all the shares at once. Where privatisations have been carried out in stages they have nearly always resulted in higher total proceeds for government than if 100 per cent of the shares had been sold initially."

The draft report took a year to publish because the Department of Transport and the City advisers wanted to include their versions of events. The department told the NAO that a phased sale would not have been achievable and that there would have been a real risk of the privatisation failing. Business Outlook, page 15

Tough strategy to catch corrupt police



Condon: No hiding place for corrupt officers

POLICE OFFICERS who act as By Jason Bennetto "whistle blowers" and inform Crime Correspondent on their corrupt colleagues will be offered witness protection, and most comprehensive in as part a package of measures the world. "It aims to ensure to deal with illegal and unethical behaviour at Scotland Yard, those who are corrupt, disit was announced yesterday.

Integrity testing, that includes leaving marked bank against corrupt colleagues will notes in police stations, the be offered protection from posvetting of bank accounts and the use of undercover officers The support would include to spy on suspected wrong- transferring the officer from his doers, are all part of the anti or her unit, and in extreme corruption strategy.

expected to be adopted by other at their new address. forces throughout Britain in the coming years.
Sir Paul Condon, the Com-

new strategy was the toughest drugs squad, are considered

that there is no hiding place for honest or unethical," he said.

Officers prepared to testify sible intimidation or bribery. cases moving home and having Many of the measures are panic buttons or alarms fitted

Sir Paul said he wanted to tackle the police "culture" of protecting your colleagues, missioner of the Metropolitan however dishonest. Specialist Police, said yesterday that the units, such as the flying or

they come across most of the racism and sexism. organised and wealthy crimi-

The measures are the latest, and most comprehensive, crackdown on majoractice by officers at Scotland Yard. There are now 46 officers suspended in connection with corruption investigations and 35 people, including 15 serving officers, have been charged. They are accused of a range of offences including supplying drugs, taking

information. Sir Paul estimated that up to 250 officers are corrupt within his force and predicted yesterday that the new strategy would uncover more wrongdoing.

bribes, and stealing confidential

the most likely place for corrupt introduced are integrity tests to use undercover officers to seofficers to flourish because include unethical behaviour, cretly test others if they are sus-The financial records of of-

bribes, selling drugs, or making black officers are to be used as money illegally, will also be checked. In addition drug testing will be carried out on officers suspected of taking illegal substances.

Secret alarm systems are to be installed to detect officers who try to gain illegal access to confidential information kept on computer. Plans to introduce random

month, have been water down following furious lobbying by police associations which viewed them as an attempt to trick officers into making mistakes. In-Among the measures to be stead Sir Paul has promised to

pected of corruption or unethical behaviour. As well ficers suspected of taking as using drugs or cash as a lure

undercover agents to catch out

racist detectives. Sir Paul said his officers are to be subject to the most stringent integrity tests in the world. He added: "What makes the corrupt behaviour of a tiny minority particularly appalling is that it damages the reputation of the service and undermines the good work done by the ma-

integrity testing, reported last jority of our staff." The Deputy Commissioner John Stevens, added: "Implementation of this strategy is non-negotiable, in the same way as integrity is non-nego-

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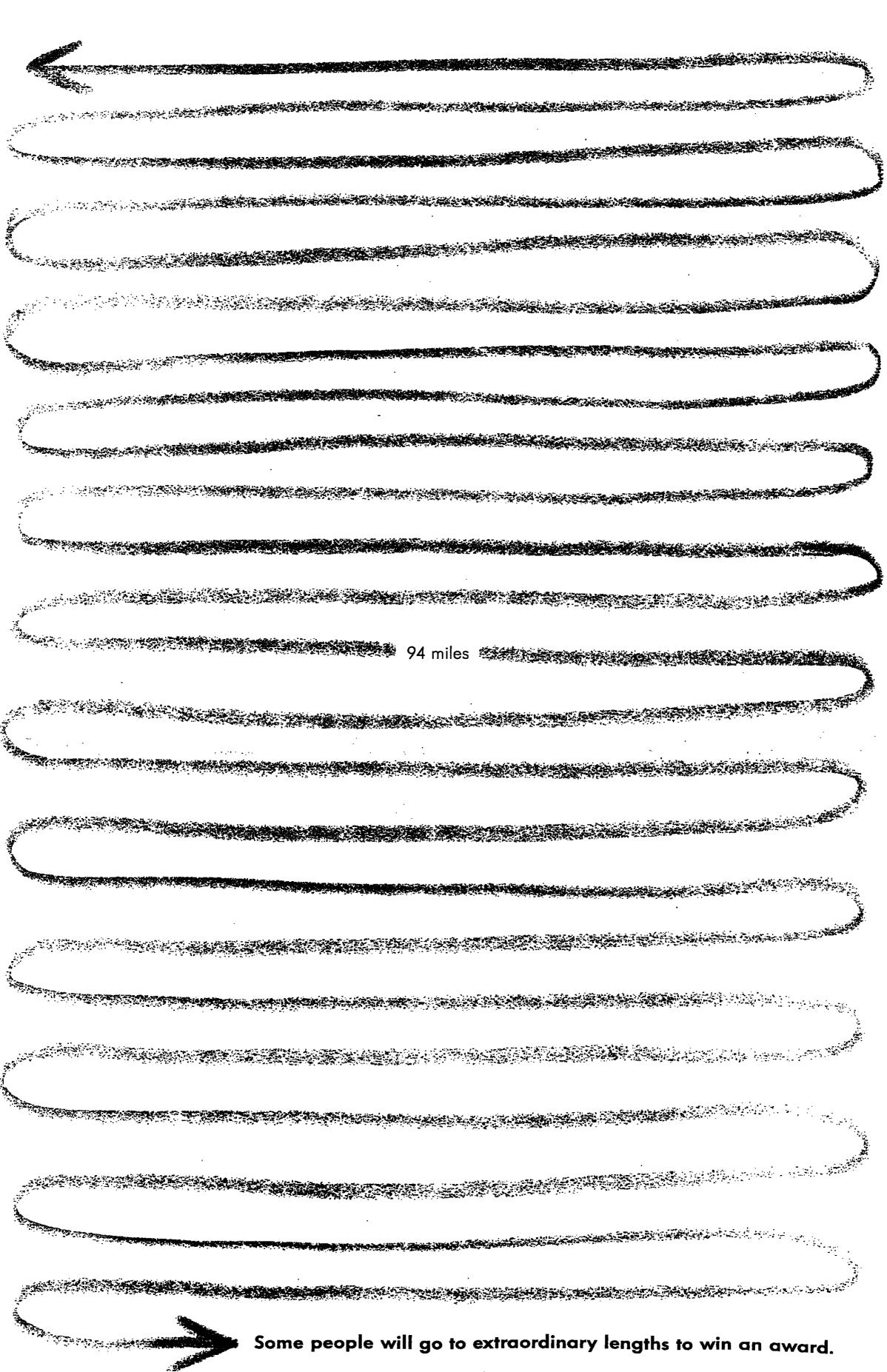
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مكذا من الاجل

Police target , cars at random

By JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

MOTORISTS HAVE a random chance of being prosecuted for speeding, with some police forces ignoring those who drive significantly above the limit, an official report revealed yesterday:

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, which carried out the study. Road Policing and Traffic, found that forces in England and Wales operated different "secret" speed limits.

Lack of resources and overworked staff are partly blamed by chief officers for allowing motorists to escape the law. Inefficient and marginalised policing roads policy was held responsible for the wide variations.

Colin Smith, the report's author, said policing of the roads had become a "Cinderella service", despite an average of 60 deaths on roads each week at an estimated cost of £12.6bn a year to deal with the accidents.

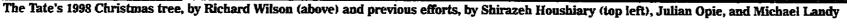
The study of six forces - the Metropolitan Police, Kent, Lancashire, Norfolk, South Wales. and West Mercia - recommended targeting groups of "drink-drivers, oŭenders; speeders, born-again bikers (middle-aged men who buy mo-

torbikes! or road ragers". Mr Smith said that, at the moment, a driver prosecuted in one area could have gone unpunished if stopped in another.











trees, this is the Tate BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

No fir

SOME DO-ITYOURSELF shelving appears to have been left by workmen in the entrance hall of the Tate Gallery. But in fact this is Christmas contemporary-art style.

The Tate has commissioned the artist Richard Wilson, 45. to create its 1998 Christmas tree. He decided that working with a conventional tree was express both the order and the chaos of Christmas".

It is formed from basic workshop-style shelving units, decorated with functional storage boxes in primary colours, reminiscent of Christmas parcels, and with bare electric bulbs housed in wire cages.

An artificial tree is suspended within the framework of the shelving. Made from metal, it is skeletal, like the shelving units, and was originally covered with glitter to make it appear festive.

Wilson was hitherto hest known for his oil-tank installation, now at the Saatchi Gallery

A Tate spokeswoman said the tree was certainly a work of art. "The result is sparely kitsch, intended to evoke both the glamour of Christmas and the empty materialism so often

BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

'Net 'junkies' surf for nine hours a day

THE INTERNET is generating a new breed of computer junkie who spends an average of more than nine hours a day surfing the Net.

Psychologists have found that the capacity to make anonymous contact with people anywhere in the world is proving so seductive that some peon' spend all their leisure hours dectronic communion.

Half of the 445 Internet users from around the world who responded to a survey by psychologists at Hertfordshire University, said that they were "addicted" to the Net. They estimated that on average they spent 60 hours a week on line, while the remainder of the respondents said they spent 28 hours on line.

Dr Helen Petrie, who conducted the study presented to the British Psychological Society's London conference yesyerday, said: "Sixty hours a week is likely to be an over-estimate. But there are some people who go home after work, lock themselves in the spare room and and don't come out again until 2am."

Women were just as likely to be addicted as men. Other surveys show male dominance of the Net is being eroded with the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

proportion of women users up from 6 per cent to 38 per cent in a couple of years.

Dr Petrie said Internet junkies reported doing all the things that ordinary surfers did, only more intently. They sent e-mails, looked at newsgroups, played games, shopped and downloaded software. "Some men admitted to looking at pornography but who knows

what the real figures are." What made the Internet addictive was the "intermittent reinforcement" that came from

"When you surf the Web and click on something, it may not be very exciting but you think the next page might be. If you sometimes get something interesting you keep searching and can lose track of time."

The randomness, allied to the intermittent reward, made it addictive in a similar way to gambling, she said. Like the casinos kept delib-

erately dark so punters lost all sense of time, much Internet surfing was done at night. Dr Petrie said: "It is differ-

ent from television which is not addictive in the same way. Tele-

vision simply wash and fills the time."

The consequences for the addicts could be severe if they neglected themselves or their family and friends. Some seemed to prefer the company of their computers to people.

"We found people who spent

more time on line were more depressed, but we couldn't tell whether they were depressed and didn't want to go out and so turned to the Internet or whether spending a lot of time on line made them depressed." Spreading a little happiness among England's beleaguered cricketers, who this week lost the Ashes to Australia, could help reverse their fortunes, a psychologist claimed at the

conference. Dr Peter Totterdell, of Sheffield University, said teaching players to feel good about themselves was as important as practising in the nets. Research among 33 professional county cricketers showed a clear link between perfor-

mance and mood. Happiness, energy, enthu-siasm and focus all assisted better performance in batsmen. Among bowlers, mental strain and tension was associated with worst performance.

MARLBORO/CLASSIC FITS THE MAN

Teenage girls thrive with a single mother

THE BREAK-UP of a family may BY JEREMY LAURANCE be better for teenage girls than if their parents stay together. according to a study.

The strong relationship which tends to develop between sole mothers and their teenage daughters after divorce offers a degree of protection and support which may be lacking in two-parent families.

However, the study found that sons of sole mothers closer to their daughters, showed signs of greater psychological distress and felt they had less independence and were more controlled.

The study of 156 children aged 15-16 from broken homes showed that teenage daughters of sole mothers were better Miusted psychologically than meir peers in two-parent

Dr Tony Cassidy of Coventry more concerned to examine the University, who conducted the

study, presented at the British Psychological Society's Conference in London yesterday, said there was a danger that in two-parent families the common difficulties of adolescence were dismissed as "typical teenage problems".

In single-parent families, mothers tended to become developing a mutually supportive relationship which encouraged the teenagers to achieve and to succeed.

Dr Cassidy said: "It almost sounds as if family break-up is good for girls. The 15-16 group is a difficult age and in twoparent families the problems tended to be endured rather than dealt with. In singleparent families the mother was

relationship." With boys, the picture was less clear. They tended to be more distressed by the break-up of the family but the presence of a father figure (the majority of sole parents are still mothers) might have encouraged greater indepen-

The level of distress suffered by teenagers depended on the way their families had taught them to cope. Families that tackled problems rather than avoiding them, giving their children the confidence to deal with events, were more resilient. A moderate degree of conflict seemed to enhance their

capacity to cope with stress. Dr Cassidy said: "Families where children feel comfortable about arguing and who encourage problem-solving strategies tend to have better coping skills."

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Widdecombe gees-up wags for some cross-party horseplay

front or back of the honourable lady's pantomime horse," said Tessa Jowell, unveiling an intriguing New Labour initiative for ending the tired old tit-for-tat of adversarial politics.

Given that Ann Widdecombe was to be her partner in this crossbench collaboration, the image that formed was a slightly surreal one one half of the beast would be a dressage pony, slightly nervous and easily startled, the other a political shire-horse, imperturbable and unstoppable. Then again Ms combining the concepts of "Ann Widdecombe" and "back end of a horse" without actually saying any-

thing unparliamentary. The boors on the Labour backbenches need no such encouragement. Ms Jowell's peculiar offer had not come out of the blue. It was an on-the-hoof response to Ms Widdecombe's remark that "pan-tomime season has come early", an unwise sally that allowed Labour members to make some boisterous and unchivalrous suggestions about who might play what. The consensus seemed to be that Ms

Widdecombe would be a shoo-in for the role of one of Cinderella' sisters. Principal boy, though, was unquestionable Alistair Darling, who had come to make a statement on pensions. I don't want to suggest by this that there is anything effeminate in Mr Darling's manner. On the contrary, he is rather sternly masculine, but there is something a touch cosmetic about his appearance, a sense that the ministerial desk may sport a large mirror sur-

rounded by lightbulbs. I think this

is largely to do with the disjunction

between his sleek, sealskin hair and

THE SKETCH



SUTCLIFFE

brows. What's more, Mr Darling has the pitchy blackness of his eye- a manner that can be reminiscent

the classic principal boy.
He was in a particularly good position yesterday, since the subject was complex and he had a 100-page Green Paper to shelter behind. Not nearly complex enough, though, for some pensions enthusiasts, who had hoped for a far more radical re-invention of pensions provision. He hadn't done that, said Mr Darling because although it was easy to get together a "convention of pensions rocket scientists" and

produce astonishing new systems.

the real test was what would get

most people into a low-earth orbit.

a penurious old age.

This is what Parliament exists for, of course, to ask the awkward questions the rest of us can't think of, and it looked as if it acquitted itself reasonably well yesterday, with Old Labour backbenchers in particular pressing Mr Darling on the contradictions in his scheme. At least I think they were good interventions, since I, in common with quite a few MPs, understood neither questions nor the answers.

I did grasp one element of Mr Darling's plans though - the Government is to introduce an annual

of the thigh-slapping robustness of just beyond the gravitational pull of pensions statement for every work ing person in other words it is going to ensure that the Ghost of Retirement Future rattles its chains in our ears at least once a year.

A slip of paper will arrive and we will sit down to day-dream about what we will do with that unimaginable leisure. Then we will look at the meagre figure in the total column and realise that we will be going down to the local library to eep warm.

Alarming pensioners remains a cardinal political sin, but scaring pensioners-to-be has just become official government policy.

EU's aid policy attacked by Short

THE SECRETARY of state for **DEVELOPMENT** International Development, Clare Short, accused the European Union yesterday of diverting much-needed aid away from the world's poorest countries. The minister spoke out as she released figures showing that some Mediterranean nations received more than ten times the level of aid given to other, poorer states.

The figures, made available for the first time, prove that countries such as Morocco receive eight times more EU aid per head than Bangladesh and Ethiopia. In terms of European development aid per head in 1996, Jordan got £15.56 compared to 53p in Ethiopia

Ms Short also said that it was "extraordinary" that wealthy countries such as Brunei, Kuwait and the Bahamas were receiving aid.

Ms Short told the Commons Select Committee on International Development that the UK would be pressing for an overhaul of Europe's overseas aid budget, to ensure the cash was concentrated on the poorest nations. Politics rather than genuine poverty had distorted the budget, she said, and some states were more concerned about keeping former colonies and allies happy than directing

aid where it was most needed. Ms Short said that it was "truly appalling" that the EU now gave only 53 per cent of its £4bn budget to poor nations in Political Correspondent

Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 75 per cent 10 years ago. The UK contributes about 15 per cent of the aid resources spent by the EU.

Many middle-income states in Latin America and the Middle East received much larger sums than India, Bangladesh and Vietnam. Ms Short said that the EU should be persuaded to follow the example of the UK, which directs more than 80 per cent of its development funds at the poorest countries.

"The rhetoric of development is all about the poor and the spending is often political. The rhetoric says poverty, the reality is 'Oh. we're worried about North Africa, bung them some money' and the net effect is unprincipled application,"

The European Commission's management of the budget was "totally inefficient", with some allocations remaining unspent. Ministers from EU member states allocate the cash. The Commission administers the spending. A recent report by the OECD showed that for every £1 allocated, 27p was left unspent, largely due to inefficiency by Commission staff.

Most of the unspent money was then returned to national coffers, for general spending.



Gillian Shephard, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries from 1993 to 1994 and Nicholas Soames, the joint parliamentary secretary at the ministry from 1992 to 1994, arriving to give evidence at the BSE inquiry yesterday

Anger as Blair plays trump card

TONY BLAIR'S threat to use the **EURO ELECTIONS** Parliament Act to push through the "undemocratic" closed list AND SARAH SCHAEFER and the UK would argue for a of candidates for European night as Tory peers provoked a constitutional clash with the

The Prime Minister's readiness to force through the new voting arrangements was bitterly attacked for giving Mr Blair, not the voters, the final choice over the candidates for

RY COLIN BROWN

Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Lords, said his party would give "one last shot" to defeat the

controversial voting method. "A sixth defeat would be ... unprecedented and illustrate the staunch opposition to this totally undemocratic system which has united all parties," he European Parliament elections. said. "To use the Parliament Act date it considered "too old, Speaking ahead of last on a measure ... would look ter- awkward, left or eccentric".

rible in the history books and the Government should be

Bill on to the statute book in the new year, one Labour MEP spoke out against the "atmosphere of fear" surrounding the selection of candidates.

Shaun Spiers, Labour MEP for London Southeast, accused the Labour leadership of purging the Euro-lists of any candi-

ciety quarterly, he said Labour to choose individual candidates. politicians were "willing to regurgitate the pap served up by headquarters] because they were probably motivated by ambition, loyalty, and a justifiable faith in the party as an elec-

tion-winning machine". Mr Spiers was placed sixth in a list of 10 for the European elections next year in his own area, leaving him with only an outside chance of securing his seat. The voters under the new

Writing in today's Fabian So- arrangements will not be able "This atmosphere of fear in

the party has been reinforced by candidates were chosen on their presentational skills and knowledge of the party line - on what they were meant to think, not on what they do think."

The Bill was rushed through the Commons in a single day before last night's clash with the Lords, with the Government using its massive majority to get it through without amendment.

Licence fee for TV to be £101

BROADCASTING BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

THE TV licence fee is to cost more than £100 for the first time in its history, to help the BBC's attempts to recover the cost of its new digital services.

The Government announced yesterday that the licence would go up by 3.7 per cent from next year, but pledged to keep rises below inflation in 2000 and

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, told MPs that the fee would rise to £101 for colour and £33,50 for black and white TVs from April.

Under a five-year funding deal inherited from the last government, the fee should rise by just under inflations. every year, but the minister said that exceptional spending pressures on the BBC had to be taken into account.

Despite pressure from the BBC to put up the charge even more, the rise would be much smaller after next year, with the fee increasing by 1 per cent under inflation in 2000 and 2.5 per cent under inflation in 2001.

The rises will not affect a separate review into BBC funding ordered by Mr Smith in October. An independent pane whose chairman is due to be announced soon will oversee the

In a written parliamentary answer Mr Smith said that the to allow the BBC to plan its business properly" over the next few years.

Peter Ainsworth, the Tory culture spokesman, said that the licence could only be justified if the corporation stuck of its public-service remit and avoided competing with commercial channels for a mass au-

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Whip moves to stop laptop flap

ANN TAYLOR is to tell MPs NEW TECHNOLOGY that there was nothing sinister behind the removal of computers from the whip's office by Nick Brown, the former Chief Whip, when he moved to the Ministry of Agriculture.

A Tory MP last night tabled Commons questions to Ms Taylor, the Chief Whip, following a report in a Sunday newspaper about the removal of the laptop computers. It raised speculation at Westminster that Mr Brown had some secret information on the computers. But the explanation given last night was that his special advisers were unwilling to learn how to use the Ministry computers.

Whitehall sources said Ms Taylor would be making it clear that there was no secret whips' information held on the computers used by Mr Brown's special advisers. "They had got used to the way they were set up and wanted to carry on using them." said the source. Ms Taylor billed Mr Brown's

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

advisers for the laptops to be replaced, at a cost totalling around £12,000.

South West Hertfordshire MP Richard Page tabled two written Commons questions about the computers and said he wanted a full explanation of who authorised the payments. He said: "If public money has been spent in this way, we all need to know the reasons why. The public deserves some definitive answers."

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said the explanation was that Mr Brown's advisers did not want to retrain when they moved departments.

The spokesman said: "The Ministry paid for the Whips Office to replace the machines at a cost of just over £11,000. Any access to the Whips Office system was removed when they were transferred."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Dounreay restrictions to stay THE 2km fishing restrictions around the end of the Dounreay nuclear plant will remain in place after recommendations by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Health minister Sam Galbraith disclosed.

Outpatient referral numbers up REFERRALS FOR outpatient appointments, including those from accident and emergency departments, rose by 97,000 during the first six months of this year while GP referrals rose by 31,000, the Prime Minister said.

Arms contracts secure jobs

THE GOVERNMENT has awarded two ammunition contracts, worth about £200 million and securing 500 jobs, Junior Defence minister John Spellar said.

THE HOUSE

Millennium bug MARGARET BECKETT.

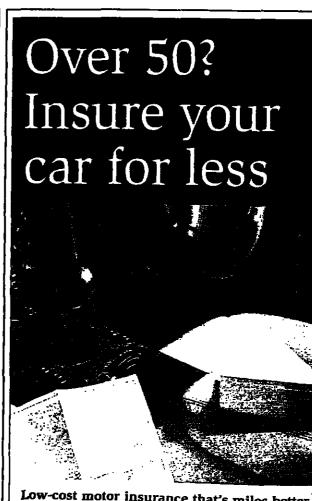
Leader of the House of Commons, has been given an extra minister to help her cope with extra responsibilities for the millennium bug and Government legislation. Paddy Tipping, MP for Sherwood, was yesterday appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Mrs Beckett.

Queen's Awards THE QUEEN'S Awards for

Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement are to be subjected to a wide-ranging review, the Prime Minister announced last night. The scope and eligibility for the awards would be assessed and changed by the year 2000.

Today

Commons: Christmas adjournment debate. Backbench debates: effect of EU Directive 90/220 on British science; permitted development rights of Railtrack; brownfield sites in Teesside. International Development questions. Questions to the Prime Minister. Debate on modernisation of the Commons. Short debate on A14 trunk road in Cambridgeshire Lords: Debates on Sierra Leone; water fluoridation; supermarket pricing.



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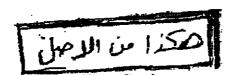
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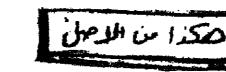
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INDEPENDENT . lay 16 December 1998

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children face life of poverty

CHILDREN BEAR the brunt of BY GLENDA COOPER poverty in Britain, with more than three million living in households that exist on less than half the average income, according to a new report.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has brought together more than 40 indicators of poverty which it is urging the Government to publish in the same way as the Bank of England publishes reports on

The indicators, compiled by the New Policy Institute for the foundation, include households without work for more than two years and those with long-term illness, and suicide rates. They could be used to update annually how well the Government is combating poverty, said the authors.

They reveal that 10 million live in relative poverty, and while four million working-age adults would like jobs, they cannot get them. Although old age is no longer synonymous with poverty. 60 per cent of pensioners remain in the bottom 40 per cent of income distribution.

Around 30 per cent of people aged 45-64 have a disability or report ill health. The figures rose by a million between 1991 and 1996, with manual workers twice as likely to suffer as the professional classes.

"This is the first time that all these indicators have been brought together and they can be used to make a complete framework which will give us the big picture on poverty and social exclusion," said Catherine Howarth, one of the authors.

The foundation is particularly concerned with the number of children growing up in is at its highest ever level, with poverty, with more than 2.5

Social Affairs Correspondent

CHANGES IN PAST YEAR

Getting worse: Gap between low and median income Long-term recipients of benefits

Births to girls conceiving under 16 Children in young offenders' institutions Young adults starting drug

Insecure employment Older people needing help to live at home Spending on travel

Getting better: Children's accidental deaths Children whose parents di-

vorce Individuals wanting work Adults on low rates of pay Pensioners with no private income

Older people without a telephone People lacking a bank or building society account Overcrowding Mortgage arrears

households. Those living in households below half the average income is 3.3 million.

Those born in the bottom two social classes are 25 per cent more likely to be underweight as babies and are twice as likely to die in childhood ac-

Worryingly, after falling in the early 1990s, the number of under-age girls having babies 4,279 giving birth in 1996. Abormillion living in workless tions among this age group

run at a similar rate to births.

Young women leaving care are disproportionately represented among teenage pregnancy figures, with between one in four and one in seven young women leaving care pregnant, or as mothers already.

The number of children in young offender institutions has risen by nearly 40 per cent since 1993, to almost 11,000 in 1997. Although girls make up only 3.5 per cent of this group the number has risen proportionately much faster than for boys, almost doubling between 1990 and 1997.

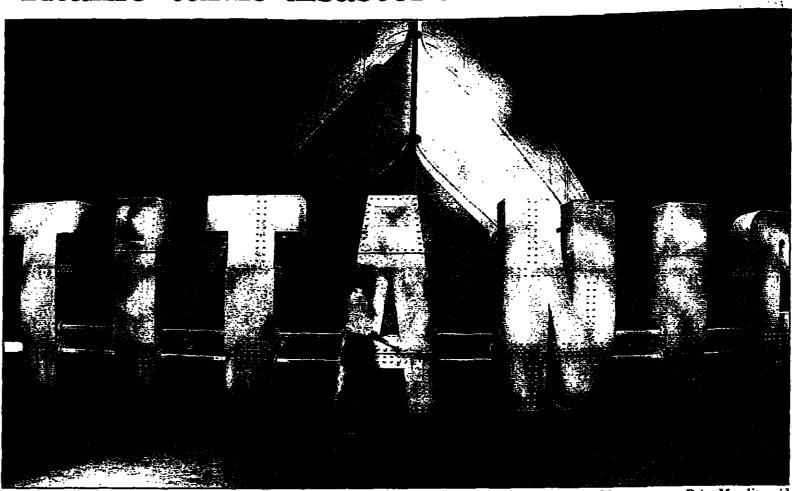
"Children do disproportionally badly," said Ms Howarth. "What's really worrying is that we know from research that a bad start in life is really hard to shake off. If the Government do not put the focus on children they are storing up trouble for the future."

The researchers called for the Government to adopt the indicators so that the scale of the challenge to achieve greater social cohesion can be better known. They suggested that the Office for National Statistics could carry out the annual survey.

"Just as the Bank of England's regular report on inflation has helped to raise the standard of debate about economic policy, so a regular poverty and social exclusion report would increase public awareness and understanding of the needs of a significant minority of the population," said Dr Peter Kenway, director of the New Policy Institute.

"An official but independent report on progress would underline the Government's commitment to meeting those

Three million 'Titanic' turns disaster into a theme park



A 12ft sign greets visitors starting the tour dedicated to the film which was a box office success earlier this year

IT WAS a disaster. It became a BY DAVID LISTER movie. Inevitably, it is now a theme park

Titanic - Official Movie Tour opened last night heralding a life after death for blockbusters. Twentieth Century Fox and a company called Special Entertainment Events have rebuilt part of the film set at an exhibition hall adjoining Wembley Stadium. For £12 (£8

Arts News Editor

for children) visitors can walk through the first-class hallway, see the grand staircase and wander through sets from first-class to steerage.

On the way there are interactive listening posts where the director, James Cameron, and the stars, Kate Winslet and

Leonardo DiCaprio, talkabout of the Titanic experience. the film.

The real special effects are saved for the "sinking corridor" and the "disaster theatre" at the end of the tour, where the final moments of the Titonic are recreated on a set of screens. The ground shakes and water is seen. But seeing water is as close as visitors will get to the less glamorous side

This is a way of capturing the spirit, romance and adventure of the movie - it is not a log flume," said a spokesman a

little sniffily The set is also a novel venue for corporate hospitality. Fox and Sky TV have booked corporate banquets. As Fox and Sky supremo Rupert Murdoch will have noticed an official movie tour can have a longer life than the original movie. A

Star Trek tour is still doing big business in Germany. After Wembley, Titanic moves on to Holland, France, Germany and We await the truly British

equivalent - perhaps the Ken Loach official movie tour. Meet you round the back of the

Test-tube success rivals natural birth

ADVANCES IN test-tube baby treatment have boosted success rates for infertile couples to almost twice that achieved by natural conception.

Figures from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority show some clinics achieving live-birth rates of 30 to 40 per cent per attempt, com-

By JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

pared with 20-25 per cent a month for sexual intercourse. The Assisted Reproduction and Gynaecology Centre in London achieved 41.8 per cent live births per embryo transferred to the words.

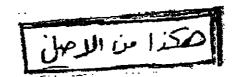
The figures, released yesterday in the authority's annual Patients' Guide to IVF Clinics, show the overall success rate has risen again, as it has in every year for the past decade, to 2L8 per cent per embryo transfer. The authority said the guide was interim. Cannabis smoking can make

been adjusted to take account conceive, according to Ameriof the types of patients treated. determine success are the age of the woman, the length of time showed that they inhibit the the couple have been trying to release of enzymes that enable have a family and the quality of the man's sperm.

because the figures have not it more difficult for couples to

can researchers. A study of The main factors that the effects of compounds found in marijuana on human sperm the sperm to penetrate the egg, alter the swimming patterns of the sperm and prevent sperm from binding to the egg.





Impeachment crisis: The White House needs to woo 20 senators in vital vote, as intellectuals back President at rally

More Republicans turn on Clinton

THE WEIGHT of political opinion moved further against President Bill Clinton vesterday. with key Republicans speaking out for his impeachment.

As the President flew back frien the Middle East last night, more Republicans moved against him. And without a damatic gesture from the White House, his advisers seem to be pessimistic that he can escape a vote on impeachment by the House of Repreentatives tomorrow or on

There are four articles of mpeachment laid against the around for ways out of the ap-President in the House, relating to alleged perjury and ob-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

struction of justice in the investigation into his affair with Monica Lewinsky. A vote would lead to a trial in the Senate which could mean that Mr Clinton is removed from office.

The White House was considering a number of moves to galvanise support, including a televised address to the nation and an appearance on Capitol Hill. But the rampant speculation about what he might do, accompanied by a fresh castingreflection of the disbelief that

the President might be sliding gradually towards disaster.

Robert Dole, the former Republican Senator who was defeated by Mr Clinton for the White House in 1992, yesterday offered a compromise to avoid impeachment, replacing it with a resolution in the Senate that would condemn his behaviour but leave him in office.

The step-by-step procedure would end before the new year. It "would demonstrate to the vast majority of Americans that Republican congressional leaders will fulfil their constitutional responsibilities, clear the decks and move forward when

he said in an article in the New York Times. The Washington Post has backed a congressional censure in a leading article.

Republican leaders in the House have so far ruled out any initiative that would circumvent the impeachment procedure. The Republicans have a slim

majority of 228 to 206 with one independent. At least three Democrats will vote for impeachment. So the White House needs about 15 Republican votes to escape. There were estimated to be at least 20 who were wavering, but that number gets smaller every day.

One Republican who had opposed impeachment said

back it. Jack Quinn of New York said that the issue was "about principle, not about polities". Fred Upton of Michigan, John McHugh of New York and Tom Campbell of California, who had been counted as

against the President. Today, Mr Clinton will meet Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican who had opposed impeachment but says he is now undecided.

undecided, also came out

But the White House's inability or unwillingness to reach out to Republicans has been commented on with increasing incomprehension in Washinghave mobilised grassroots campaigns, and television and radio advertisements are running to back him. This may not be enough.

He retains enormous popu-

lar support, with 61 per cent opposing the idea of impeachment, according to an opinion poll by the Washington Post and ABC News. But only 29 per cent said they would be angry if he were impeached; another 29 per cent would be dissatisfied, but not angry. And ominously for the President, 58 per cent think that he should resign if the House votes to impeach him, even before a Senate trial.

the President's remarkable ability to fight back against his critics. He has repeatedly demonstrated a flair for coming back off the ropes, exploiting his personal political skills.

Equally, the White House has several times exploited its ement of expectations to help the President to gain unexpected victories.

The looming sense of darkness in Washington, as impeachment becomes a real prospect, may yet persuade some Congressmen to change their minds. The stock market has taken fright as the vote approaches. For these reasons

judgement in Washington has been that Congress would shy away from removing the President, and that some way would be found to avoid the fatal step.

But that seems more and more difficult to see. And the judgements of Washington and its denizens have not been particularly good so far in plotting the course of the proceedings against the President.

Time magazine yesterday summed up the mixture of uncertainty, fascination, and nausea with a silhouette of the President, and a headline in lurid red letters: "Will they

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?

Celebrities lend weight to case for the defence

IF SOMEONE has a video of the By DAVID USBORNE rally held at the New York University School of Law this Monday evening, they should give a copy to President Clinton. One by one, they denounced the Republican drive for his impeachment and removal from office – historians, writers, Nobel prize winners, and one Hollywood actor.

For sure, nobody among the Republicans may pay heed. This was a luvvies-for-Clinton kind of deal - all warmth for the embattled President and angst for the Republic and its Constitution. But these were luvvies with intellectual stature, except for the Hollywood hard man Alec Baldwin. For the 750 souls who crowded in to listen, it was a night of electrifying eloquence and high indignation.

The writer E L Doctorow, his oice quavering at the microhose who would overthror the President: to do so, he said, would constitute "the unseating of a democratically elected president – with all the legitimacy of a coup d'état".

The very soul of America was being threatened, Mr Doctorow insisted. "If Mr Clinton is impeached, or tried, or forced to resign, American puaism, with its punitive lust and autocratic and theocratic vision, will be reborn for the 21st century.

"We are going through this

constitutional crisis because this President lied to the American people. I've been trying to think of a president in my life who didn't lie to the

Recalling the illegal arm grandeur.'

mon theme of the night. Jerry Nadler, a Democrat representative and member of the House Judiciary, thundered to mighty applause: "If a trial starts in the Senate we may be phone, had this message for able to find out who started this

> For the Nobel Prize winner Eli Wiesel it is the battering of Mr Clinton that must end. To Republicans, he said: "We appeal to you to put an end to the humiliation that President Clinton has been subjected to for three years. Public humiliation is a sin equal to bloodshed. For the sake of our collective honour, we plead with you to do what so many of us wish you had done earlier; censure the President for his actions."

Gloria Steinem, an icon of

in New York

American people."

sales to Iran to fund right-wing contras in Nicaragua by Presidents Reagan and Bush, and Lyndon Johnson's distortions during the Vietnam War, Mr Doctorow said: "Perhaps the problem with President Clinton's lie is that it lacked

OUD C'ETAL AND WHO DAIC FOR IL

The coup d'état was a com-

in his battle against impeachment at New York University yesterday American feminism, was also at is succeeding in destroying sin cast the first stone." The presidents on trumped-up polis continue to show that a sexual harassment law" the rally. Women, she said, "will

The meeting, organised by not stand by as a Congress that is 90 per cent men attempts to an ad hoc group, Americans had said that to the Republiremove the first president Against Impeachment, also had a man of God at the ready. The By attacking the President Rev Paul Moore, former Episfor his affair with the intern, copal Bishop of New York, reminded Republicans of this Monica Lewinsky, Republican s were sabotaging the familiar Biblical bomily: when progress made on sexual ha-Jesus addressed the mob as it rassment of women, Ms prepared to pelt the adulteress, Steinem said. "The right wing he said: "Let he who is without

Bishop noted: "The onlookers all slunk away. I wish someone

The consequence of impeaching President Clinton, several speakers suggested, would be to destabilise the political and constitutional bedrock of the Union. It would open the way for opposition parties to try and unseat future

eech by lellow Nobel Laureate and author Eli Weisel at the rally supporting President Clinton

"The political stability that we have known for 200 years is not a gift of providence. It does not happen by chance," warned Robert Torricelli, a Democrat Senator from New Jersey.

Mr Baldwin, in the end, brought the house down by mimicking a fictional southern Republican agonising over what he should do, even as the President Clinton?' going to be impeached? Starting on Thursday, the House of Representatives -

Is President Bill Clinton

the lower House of Congress – will consider four charges against him. If they decide by a simple majority to impeach him. the issue is passed to the Senate to decide.

What are his chances of getting away with it? The Republicans have a narrow majority in the House. Some Democrats probably about three - will vote for impeachment. So the White House needs some Republicans to back the President.

What happens after? The next step is a trial of the President in the Senate. The Senate would need a two-thirds majority to find him guilty.

Is a trial likely? it is possible that the President could just be censured in the Senate

Can a trial be stopped? A majority of the Senate must agree. If it votes by a two-thirds majority to suspend the rules, the Senate could decide not to

Would the Senate find him guilty?

Lynsey Addario/AP

sizeable majority of Americans

But he offered serious points

too: "I am not a lawyer but I

know that in a trial you are

meant to be judged by a jury of

your peers. In the partisan filth

that we have now in this coun-

try, with the Republicans we

have in the Senate, how can

they be viewed as peers of

do not want impeachment.

The Republicans have a narrow majority. If Democrats vote the party line, then he is safe as a two-thirds majority is needed. But the idea that the Senate would not find him guilty is a reason why people want another way

ANDREW MARSHALL

Israel defiant on troop pull-out

elected by women voters."

ne writer toni morrison a

ISRAEL YESTERDAY rebuffed BY PATRICK COCKBURN President Bill Clinton's attempt to get it to continue troop withdrawals from the West Bank ander the Wye Agreement, say-ag the Palestinians must first meet Israeli conditions.

The meeting between Mr Clinton, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, at the Erez crossing yesterday failed to produce a breakthrough. Earlier Mr Netanyahu said the Palestinians should not be rewarded for revoking, the previous day, anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian charter. "Arafat should have cancelled the covenant five years ago. I have no intention of granting him a prize for that."

After the Erez meeting he

said the Palestinians had to meet a number of Israeli deare implemented. They include a renunciation by Mr Arafat of any intention unilaterally to declare a Palestinian state. ac-

cepting Israel's criteria for the release of prisoners, and clamping down on anti-Israeli incitement Mr Clinton sought to put a

more optimistic gloss on the results of his visit. "We now have to decide practical means to go forward and I think we are well on the way to doing that." An American official said the US expected the troop withdrawals to go forward quickly. US strategy during Mr Clinton's three-day visit to Israel and the self-ruled Palestinian

enclaves has been to ignore provocative statements by Mr Netanyahu, hoping they are largely directed at the ultra-nationalist far right in Israel. He is not likely to win a vote of confidence in the Knesset next mands before the Wye accords week if the far right votes against him



Bill Clinton with Mr and Mrs Netanyahu at Masada

Church of the Nativity. He then went to Masada, where Jews fought to the last against Roman legions in AD73 at the end of the Jewish rebellion.

Mr Clinton was dogged on After the Erez meeting Mr his trip by questions about im-Clinton went to Bethlehem, the peachment. Asked if he could Palestinian enclave 10 min- separate his personal prob-

utes' drive from the centre of lems from his official duties, he Jerusalem, where he lit a said: "Absolutely. You need to Christmas tree and visited the turn up to work every day. It is not a complicated thing." Mr Netanyahu may calculate that with Mr Clinton possibly facing White House will be in no po--

ing the deepening confrontation

trial by the Senate next year the sition to put pressure on Israel. But Palestinians are relish-

and Mr Netanyahu. They were also quick yesterday to accuse Mr Netanyahu of preventing Mr Clinton from reviving the Wye agreement.

At the same time Mr Arafat is jubilant that, verbally at least, the Palestinians are being treated by the US on an equal footing with the Israelis. They were almost as surprised as Israelis to find Mr Clinton telling them in Gaza that he recognised the "the right of the Palestinians to live free today, tomorrow and for ever."

Mr Clinton's departure without any agreement on the release of prisoners whom the Palestinians want see free may lead to a resumption of the riots and rallies that halted while he

If Mr Arafat tries to suppress the riots he will face accusations from Palestinians that he is betraying men who had acted under his orders simply to Robert Fisk,

Fury at remark on Palestine children

NOTHING HAS created such By PATRICK COCKBURN fury among Israeli leaders as in Jerusalem President Bill Clinton's comparison, during is visit to Gaza, between the grief of Palestinian children whose fathers are prisoners in Israel and that of the children of murderers and Israeli children whose parents were killed by Palestinians.

"These children brought tears to my eyes," Mr Clinton "We have to find a way for both sets of children to get

Israeli reaction was both State, if the US was "willing to angry and immediate. Ben- release the terrorists who car- President treat the struggle of

jamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "There's a world of difference between

their victims." Mr Clinton was comparing the fate of the children rather than the fathers, but this point was overlooked as Mr Netanyahu asked Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of

ried out the attack on the Twin the two peoples as morally me. Your father would be very Towers [World Trade Centre] in New York". Mr Clinton probably did not

realise the shock to Israelis of having the moral high ground taken away from them so publicly. Nahum Barnea, the Israeli first time, President Clinton "equated the sufferings, fears and aspirations of the Palestinians with the suffering, lears and aspirations of the Israelis".

He added that seeing the US

equivalent hit a deeper nerve proud of you." in Israel than withdrawal from the West Bank

Mr Clinton met the four Palestinian children when he saw Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza. He had commentator, wrote that for the met the Israeli children the previous day in Jerusalem. Nihad Zakout, 11, a Palestinian whose father had killed

None of this was out of the ordinary. But in the next few hours President Clinton and his advisers decided that equating the plight of children deprived of parents as a result of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians was a good way of illustrating his theme that each side had to recognise the sufferings of the other.

an Israeli, told him: "T've been deprived of touching him for 10 The explosion which folyears." The President replied: lowed showed that this is not

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Paris clears itself of Rwanda killings

A PARLIAMENTARY inquiry BY JOHN LICHFIELD yesterday cleared France of in Paris any direct complicity in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, in which 800,000 people are thought to have been killed.

A nine-month investigation by a parliamentary committee, the first of its kind, criticised the authorities for blindly supporting the Hutu-led government and armed forces of Rwanda before the massacres way involved", actively or passively, in the mass murder of the minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus which followed the assassination of Rwanda's Hutu president in April 1994.

"The first point that should be recalled is that those who killed Rwandans were other Rwandans," the report said.

The French MPs say the wider blame for the slaughter,

must rest with the international community as a whole, and especially the US. The report says scores of thousands of lives could have been saved by the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force, but action was blocked by Washington, which was numbed by the failure of its began. But France was "in no intervention in Somalia the previous year.

The inquiry's result will be a disappointment, but no surprise, to those inside and outside France who pushed for an investigation of its role in Rwanda before and after the

Articles in Le Figaro earlier this year said the French authorities were aware, or ought to have been aware, that the Hutu-dominated government and the French-trained mentary inquiry accepted this

preparing to slaughter the Tutsi community. The articles also claimed Paris continued to supply arms to the government in Kigali after the massacres

It was also claimed that the

then French president, François Mitterrand, operated a clandestine Rwandan policy in the early 1990s. Although France was publicly committed to peace negotiations between the two Rwandan ethnic, or social, groups, Mr Mitterrand was deeply suspicious of the Tutsi rebel leaders, who were based in neighbouring Uganda. Since they had lived mostly in exile, speaking English, under Ugandan and American influence, he believed they posed a

threat to French interests and

the survival of the French language in south-central Africa. The report of the parlia-

"institutional dysfunctions" in the then French government. It said France found itself "trapped by its own [pro-Hutu, anti-Tutsi] strategy." As a result, Paris allowed itself to be manipulated by the extremists in power in Kigali, instead of pressuring them to adopt a more pa-

cific approach. But the report says these criticisms do not support the "unacceptable accusation" that France was complicit in the genocide.

A rebel faction aiming to take over the anti-immigrant National Front said it would hold an extraordinary congress in Marignane, near Marseilles. on 24 January to confirm its split from the party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen. Bruno Mégret, the technocrat battling to take power, says he has enough support within the Front to



Students showing support for President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad yesterday. Iraq is pressing the United Nations for a review of sanctions in the hope of having the eight-year-old embargo lifted

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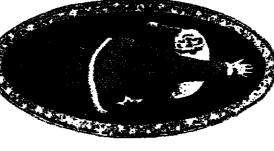
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Indian holy man held for 38 rapes

THE SADHUS of India, ascetic BY PETER POPHAM Hindu holy men, usually wear no clothes at all, but until this week it was unusual for this proclivity to be given a sexual interpretation. This may now change, for on Sunday, police in Banares, the holiest city in the country, arrested a sadhu, named Swami Yogeshwaranand Maharaj, for allegedly raping 38 women over the past six years.

The "swami" (or "sage") claimed to possess spiritual powers that enabled him to cure women of barrenness. Banares police chief Dinanath Pandey said. "Over the past six ears, many childless couples had visited the sadhu and pleaded for help. "The sadbu used to ask the

women to stay back at his home for a few days, on the pretext of performing rituals.

"He would then administer drugs to the women and then rape them."

This underhand behaviour nonetheless often had the desired effect, according to the police chief, and many of Maharaj's victims subsequently became pregnant - with the sadhu's babies. And overcome with gratitude for the baby, they also became his ardent disciples, without realising that the father of their long-desired child was not their husband but the so-called holy man.

But Maharaj ran out of luck another in public.

last week when his latest client regained consciousness while he was in the act of raping her and was able to run away.

All might still have been well for him, but the woman happened to be closely related to a senior police officer and an investigation was begun.

Sadhus have an extremely ambivalent reputation here. Many simple people esteem them highly for their austere

spiritual practices and apparent devotion to an austere life of meditation and mortification of the flesh. But others regard them as

decadent, dropped-out ruffians who crave nothing better than a large pipe of marijuana. This being India, both of these views are probably correct.

They are also regarded as the stormtroopers of militant Hinduism, and after the victory of the Hindu nationalist BJP in the general election this spring, massed naked sadhii rampaged through a major Hindu festival in the town of Hardwar in a frightening demonstration of strength, fighting with the police.

Their ascetic image took a knock a couple of weeks ago when a photograph in an exhibition in Delhi showed one naked sadhu masturbating

IN BRIEF

2,500 flee beached cruise ship

MORE THAN 2,550 tourists were safely evacuated from a Caribbean cruise ship that beached off St Maarten after it struck a reef and began taking on water. Fishermen and boat owners helped to ferry all passengers off the 74,000ton Monarch of the Seas, which was bound for Martinique.

New deal on Kurd rebel leader

TURKEY AND Italy are discussing sending Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, to Albania for trial on terrorism charges to resolve their dispute over his extradition. Mr Ocalan, who was detained in Rome, is wanted in Turkey but Italy refuses to return him,

Funeral of Iranian intellectual

ABOUT 3,000 Iranian writers, poets and artists attended the funeral of one of five intellectuals, Mohammad Mokhtari, who was found apparently strangled in Tehran last week. The authorities said several suspects had been arrested in connection with the killings.

Serbs attack observers

SERBS IN Kosovo spat at international observers in the town of Pec and pelted their vehicles after six Serbs died when masked Albanian gunmen went on a shooting spree in a café. On the same day. 31 Kosovo Albanians were killed in clashes on Kosovo's border with Albania

Earliest writing found in Egypt

A GERMAN archaeologist in Egypt said he had found what could be the earliest known writing by humankind - records of linen and oil deliveries from 5.300 years ago in southern Egypt, challenging the belief that the first people to write were the Sumerians of Mesopotamia 5,000 years ago.

MARTIN JACQUES The Chinese enjoy a higher living standard than any other group in Britain IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW FRONT

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DELENDENT *

Nobel ·laureate invented life story'

HGOBERTA MENCHU. the BY ANDREW GUMBEL (uatemalan human rights in Los Angeles ctivist, may have fabricated ey passages of the best-selling utobiography that paved the ay to her winning the Nobel reace Prize, according to a orthcoming book by an Amer-

can anthropologist Ms Menchu has campaigned extensively on behalf of the indigenous peoples making up the bulk of Guaternala's peasant class. She painted a searing portrait of poverty and oppression in her book 1.

Against the background of a bitter dispute between her fam- former teachers and other witily and the local landowners. she claims to have been denied all education, and to have watched a younger brother die years as a scholarship student of starvation and another being burnt alive by troops. Her book also details her pre-teenage years toiling in the fields while participating in an under-

ground protest movement. But many of these claims were either exaggerated, impossible to verify or were simply fabricated, according to Dr

in Los Angeles

almost a decade of research in and around Ms Menchu's home town of San Miguel Uspantan in north-west Guatemala.

The land dispute, according to Dr Stoll's account, Rigoberta Menchu and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans, had nothing to do with wealthy landowners. Instead, it pitted Ms Menchu's father against his in-laws' family. Dr Stoll's findings were reported at length Rigoberta Menchu, which was and largely corroborated in first published in Spain in 1983. yesterday's New York Times.

Far from being unschooled, nesses said Ms Menchu was educated up to middle-school level and spent a number of at a Catholic boarding school. Because she was away with the nuns, it seems highly unlikely that she was also working eight months of the year in the coffee and cotton fields and working as a secret political organiser.

The account of the younger brother dying of hunger was rejected by one of Ms Menchu's David Stoll, who has conducted older brothers. He told a New his loved ones. Nobody recalled



Jacques Chirac, the French President, toasts Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu (left) on a recent visit to Guatemala

siblings who died in infancy but they were both older than Rigoberta and had died long before she was born. As for the brother whom she said was burnt in front of her and her parents, neighbours and family members say he was kidnapped, handed over to the

army and killed far away from

that Ms Menchu described.

Nobody doubts the metaphorical truth of Ms Menchu's account, however, as suffering and oppression were all too real, both in her family and in the lives of the peasants among whom she grew up.

Challenged about Dr Stoll's findings, she described her book, accurately, as being "part

the mass killing in the village of the historical memory and patrimony of Guatemala". But the apparent discrep-

ancies raise questions about the degree of myth used and whether Ms Menchu's book is an autobiography or a propaganda weapon to aid the struggle of Guatemala's indigenous peoples. She has repeatedly refused to answer detailed questions about Dr Stoll's

findings. Dr Stoll concludes that she "drastically revised the pre-war experience of her village to suit the needs of the revolutionary organisation she had

The new evidence raises questions about Ms Menchu's Nobel Peace Prize, awarded in 1992 for the attention she was able to draw to the Guaternalan situation as a direct result of the

popularity of her book. For now the Nobel Committee in Oslo says there is no question of revoking the prize.

"All autobiographies embellish to a greater or lesser extent," the institute's director, Geir Lundestad, told the New York Times. He said Ms Menchu's achievements went far beyond the authorship of

a myth, China declares BY TERESA POOLE

Bigfoot

in Peking

WITH ONE giant stride, the "wild-man" of China has stepped off the biological record. He was two metres tall, had long red hair, left 40cm footprints, and was rumoured to have bedded down with peasant girls in central China's Hubei province. But now the Chinese government has decreed that he never existed

In the first official word on the long-debated Chinese Bigfoot" saga, wildlife experts have squashed the hopes of tourism cadres in the Shennongija mountain forest region of Hubei where the creature was said to roam, attracting many visitors.

"A number of systematic scientific expeditions have found that all reported sightings of Bigfoot were actually of other wild animals." said Zhang Jianlong, an official at the State Administration of Forestry, in a pronouncement carried by the

official Xinhua news agency. Hubei tourism officials have offered a bounty of 500.000 yuan (£37,000) for the capture of a Bigfoot. Mr Zhang said the government did not support this profit-oriented activity". pointing out that no one was allowed into Shennongjia natural park without his

department's permission. Searches go back to 1959, mostly concentrating on Shennongjia but also in Tibet, a possible home for the Yeti, an ape-man said to inhabit the high Himalayas. Over the years expeditions have enlisted the aid of helicopters, infra-red detectors, luminous compasses. and night-vision scopes. The best they have come up with are supposed samples of hair and

The last claimed sighting was in September 1993, when tourists said they had seen three human-shaped animals in Shennongjia. According to Xinhua there have been 114 "sightings" of Bigfoot in 70 years in the region. Unfortunately, no one managed to produce any compelling evidence, such as a

Life sentence for ripping baby from womb

AN ALABAMA woman has been BY DAVID USBORNE sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a pregnant teenager and stealing the still-living foetus from her womb so she could pretend she was the child's mother. The decision disappointed prosecutors who Gay Lake said he was taking were seeking the death penalty. The sentencing of Felecia Scott, 31, closes a case that

in New York

the ghoulish nature of the crime. Reading the sentence in a Tuscaloosa courthouse in Alabama on Monday. Judge guidance from jurors who had asked that her life be spared. Scott, who showed no emo-

on as the sentence was read

was originally convicted in September of fatally shooting 17vear-old Carethia Curry and slicing out the foetus she was carrying by a crude Caesarean section. The child is now twoand-a-half years old and is living with her father.

Scott, who has two children of her own, had a hysterectomy five years ago. Prosecutors that she had hecome

obsessed by her inability to have a third child.

They described how Scott befriended Ms Curry when she discovered she was pregnant. On 31 January 1996, with help from her then boyfriend, Frederick Polion, Scott abducted Ms Curry, shot her twice in the head and proceeded to remove

Curry's heart was still beating as her child was cut from her.

Polion was convicted in a separate trial this year of helping Scott to kidnap Ms Curry but was acquitted of a charge of murder. After Scott had stuffed Ms Curry's body into a garbage bin, Polion disposed of the bin in a mountain ravine. He said. the foetus. According to doctors however, that he did not know

Before the murder, Scott diagrams of how to perform a had pretended to her friends and family that she was pregnant. Afterwards, she showed off the child as if she had just

She and Polion fell under suspicion after the mutilated body of Ms Curry was discovered in the ravine. Police also found traces of Ms Curry's

Caesarean. Polion was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but is currently free on bond.

Ms Curry's mother, Carolyn O'Neal, expressed anguish that Scott had escaped the death penalty. "She not only took my daughter she took my grand baby from me," she said.

Scott said she planned to

Californian suburb where the rich stick strictly to the rules

SAN MARINO is not the sort of community to sport large welcome signs for visitors. All the arriving motorist sees is a clutch of warnings: trucks over three tons may not pass; street parking is prohibited between the hours of 2am and 5am; dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.

Along winding residential streets with perfectly trimmed trees and manicured lawns lurk further discreetly posted signs. "No riding bicycles or wheeled toys on sidewalk," one says. "Flying of model airplanes or possession of any motorised racer is prohibited," says another. This is at the entrance to the main public recreation area, Lacy

But these visible prohibitions are only the beginning of the story. According to city rules, home-owners may not leave cars on their driveways for more than 48 hours without risking a fine. Anyone wishing to trim a tree has to seek official permission, and failure to abide by the strict regulations can result in mandatory enrolment in a community-sponsored treepruning class.

Forgetting to mow the lawn can result in a citation at the local courthouse and a fine. Ditto for those who let their lawn sprinklers dribble on the

Professional gardeners are encouraged, but only after they have been vetted and issued with an identification tag that must be carried on the job at all times.

Every house has to have a garage with room for at least

Using a garage for other purposes - for storage, or for office space - is strictly forbidden. In fact, business activities of all kinds are banned in private homes. As an one kitchen. More than one kitchen might encourage tenants, and tenants are **AMERICAN TIMES** SAN MARINO





San Marino residents live in a thicket of rules. including restrictions on tree-trimming

ordinance proclaiming that money just south of Pasadena, all houses in San Marino must be single family homes.

In laidback, happy-go-lucky, anything-goes California, San Marino is an anomaly. It is probably the most regulated local community in America, if not the world.

What other city would insist on bicycle licences, or pet restrictions limiting households to "a maximum of three dogs or four cats over the age of six weeks"?

Tom Santley, executive director of the San Marino Chamber of Commerce, explained: "People here like rules and orderliness. It all is the construction of more stems from the desires of the residents themselves."

Needless to say, this is a conservative part of the world, strictly forbidden under an a suburb of old, established

about 10 miles north-east of downtown Los Angeles.

The police rarely show their faces on the streets because they do not need to. If a resident commits an infraction, they soon know it because the neighbours instantly call up to complain.

San Marino was originally the retreat of Henry Huntington, a man who built his fortune from trams and railroads at the turn of the century and established a famous library and botanical garden here beneath the San Gabriel mountains that still attract tens of thousands of visitors each year. He deliberately named San Marino after the secluded principality in central Italy. the last independent city-state

Marino were stricter still - so worried were Huntington and his friends to deter unsightly crowds that they inadvertently banned churches along with all other public gathering places (an oversight corrected in 1940). Although alcohol was always available for consumption at home, it was not authorised in restaurants until last year. Over the years San Mari-

Originally the rules in San

no's core population of white Protestants from the downtown elite has given way to an influx of new money including. most strikingly, prosperous families of Asian origin. But attitudes have remained the same. "We still like to think of ourselves as the landed gentry," said Mr Santley.

Which is not to say there isn't room for friction. Warren Pedersen, a retired engineering geologist sweeping leaves off his front lawn, explained how his gentlemanly offer to pay for his neighbour's tall eucalyptus trees to be trimmed (to avert possible storm damage to his roof) nearly ended in tears.

"The police said my neighbour had violated a rule protecting branches of more than four inches in diameter and threatened to take her to court. I had to step in to explain what had happened," Pedersen explained. "People take trees pretty

seriously around here." To help new residents through the labyrinth of rules and regulations, the city has produced a guidebook on the main points. It's a hefty volume that explains how front yards may only be 35 per cent cemented over, how political stickers and neon signs are banned, and how vehicles may not be advertised for sale anywhere within the city limits. As a memory aid, there is even a pictorial summary. The summary is entitled: "Do's and don'ts." And it is subtitled: "Mostly don'ts."

ANDREW GUMBEL

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BUSINESS

% changes over 12 months

BRIEFING

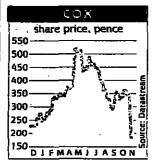
Tax breaks for R&D to be unveiled

PLANS TO give companies tax breaks in return for increased investment in research and development are expected to be unveiled today by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson. The proposal will be one of the key elements in his White Paper on competitiveness, which will seek to strengthen links between the science base and industry and promote

entrepreneurship.

The introduction of tax credits for R&D investment and incentives to attract more venture capital into start-up businesses were foreshadowed in the Chancellor's pre-Budget statement last month. The Prime Minister Tony Blair held a seminar for scientists and venture capitalists in Downing Street yesterday to discuss issues such as funding.

Cox Insurance crashes by £207m



COX INSURANCE Holdings. the Lloyds underwriter, saw its market value crash by more than £207m yesterday after it announced it would shed 150 of its 1,500-strong workforce, and warned profits would be almost 40 per cent below expectations.

Its shares plummeted 45 per cent to 187p as Cox said it would take a £4.3m

exceptional hit this year due to an increase in US auto claims, the loss of £1m in its nuclear underwriting business, and the cost of the group restructuring.

The company plans to retreat from businesses such as marine insurance and property, according to Richard Brewster, the finance director.

Brown renews call for 'third way'

GORDON BROWN last night renewed his call for a new order in the world's economies and financial markets in what he said was a "third way" between over-regulation and laissez faire economics.

Speaking at Harvard University, the Chancellor outlined a four-point plan to reduce the risk of future global crises. with measures to improve transparency, enhance surveillance and regulation, form investor networks and establish a global social code.

Mr Brown, who is meeting US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan in Washington today, said: "What we must together create is a new economic constitution for a global economy."

STOCK MARKETS FTSE 180 DOW JONES

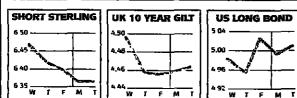
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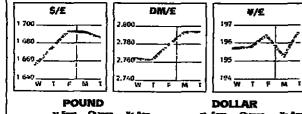
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FTSE 350	2627.60	6 70	0.26	2969.10	2210.40	3.62
FTSE All Share	2536.79	5.98	0.24	2886.52	2143.53	3.67
FTSE SmallCap	2005.50	-2.30	-0.12	2793.80	1834.40	4.19
FTSE Fledgling	1120.00	-0.70	-0.06	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE AIM	797.10	-3.20	-0.40	1146.90	761.30	0.00
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INTEREST RATES



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Germany 3.34 -0.41 3.20 -0.84 3.86 -1.43 4.72 CURRENCIES



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Australia (S)	2.6335	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.26
Austria (schillings)	19.07	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0599
Belgium (francs)	56.09	New Zealand (\$)	3,1016
Canada (S)	2.5353	Norway (krone)	12.77
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8019	Portugal (escudos)	276.20
Denmark (krone)	10.39	Saudi Arabia (rlals)	6.1518
Finland (markka)	8.2703	Singapore (S)	2.6639
France (francs)	9.1216	Spain (pesetas)	230.20
Germany (marks)	2.7291	South Africa (rands)	9.8521
Greece (drachma)	456.72	Sweden (krone)	13.27
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(reland (punts)	1.0909	Thailand (bahts)	55.81
	4		

6.4767

2703

194.05

6.1497

Indian (rupees)

Israel (shekels)

Malaysia (ringgits)

Japan (yen)

Malta (lira)

Rotes for indication purposes only

USA (\$)

1.6485

Source: Thomas Cook

Inflation on track as key prices fall sharply

Main fallers

oils and other fuels -17

audio-visual ...

telephone costs

women's clothing and children's clothing

gardening products

By Lea Paterson

PRICES OF consumer goods, including shoes, clothing and hifi equipment have fallen sharply over the past 12 months according to official figures published yesterday.

The sharp fall in prices of some key goods helped keep UK inflation on target in November for the fourth consecutive month, despite continuing inflation in the services sector. The underlying rate of inflation targeted by the Bank of

England was 25 per cent in November, unchanged from October's rate, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said. The headline rate, which includes mortgage interest payments, fell by 0.1 per cent to 3

The breakdown of the inflation figures, showing some prices falling, increases the pressure on the Bank of Eng-

per cent, the lowest since June

land's Monetary Policy Com- have fallen by 1.5 per cent over mittee (MPC) to cut interest the last 12 months, the sharpest

cigarettes

personal services

magazine and other

subscriptions and fees

vehicle tax and

rates again in January. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, said: "We estimate that goods prices have not been as weak for at least 30 years. Looking ahead, we suspect that the MPC's fears of higher inflation in 1999 will prove misplaced."

Prices of clothes and shoes ures, prices of both women's

fall for 45 years, reflecting the

the ONS said Prices of women's clothes and children's clothes have been under particular pressure. According to ONS fig-

tough trading conditions on

the high street. The last time

clothing and footwear prices fell

by this much was in July 1953,

outerwear and children's outerwear fell by 3 per cent in the twelve months to November.

Dharshini David at HSBC Securities said: "This ties in with the picture of weak retail sales in November, and suggests nervous consumers are likely to prevent high street retailers from successfully rebuilding margins in all high street sec-

tors over the coming months". Mr Saunders said: "Retailers have reported weak clothing sales in recent months, and it is no surprise prices continue

Rising seasonal food prices was the main reason inflation did not fall below target, economists said. Prices of seasonal food such as fresh fruit rose by 0.6 per cent in November

Over the last 12 months, food prices have risen by 1.8 per cent, according to the ONS, the highest rate of food inflation since October 1996, Soft drink prices - which have risen by 5 reason for the increase in the

Goods inflation continued to languish at record lows, reflecting the weakness of Britain's manufacturing and retail sectors. Prices rose by just 1.1 per cent in the 12 months to November, unchanged from October, and the lowest rate in the series' 11-year history.

Services inflation continues to outstrip goods inflation, and rose by 0.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent. However, economists believe services inflation will soon start to tumble, as the slowing domestic economy takes its toll. November's figures reveal that price increases are already slowing in some parts of the ser-

vice sector, such as catering. Ms David said: "As it is now clear that activity is softening in all sectors, it can only be a matter of a few months before services inflation starts to

Green unveils £460m Sears bid plan

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

PHILIP GREEN, the maverick retail entrepreneur, finally declared his interest in making a £460m bid for Sears yesterday. although the struggling retail group immediately dismissed the approach as being "highly conditional" and pitched at too

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In a statement issued following pressure from the Takeover Panel, Mr Green said he had formed a private company called Medinbond with a view to making an offer for

It added: "Mr Green's company has received indicative letters of support from a group of private investors including Tom Hunter, the former chairman and chief executive of Sports Division, stating that if certain conditions are met, cash resources could be made available to facilitate an offer of 300p per share."

The statement added that any offer, which would be wholly in cash, would be conditional upon completion of a satisfactory due diligence exercise and the recommendation of the Sears board".

Sears said the statement did not constitute an offer and that the true value of the company was not reflected by the 300p per share indicated.

Rea Brothers, the investment bank acting for Mr Green, said it was "disappointed" by the response. William Tebbit, one of Mr Green's advisers at Rea Brothers, said: "Their statement would indicate that they are not interested." Mr Tebitt is the son of Sir Norman Tebbit. the former Conservative Party chairman who is a non-executive director of Sears.

Sears' investors reacted coolly to Mr Green's offer. Robert Waugh of Phillips & Drew, which holds 24 per cent of the company, said: "It seems a strange way of going about a bid."

It is thought that major shareholders are unlikely to be interested at the 300-330p per share level. Some institutional investors feel Sears is like! realise more value by selling Freemans, the store card and its property interests

Nick Bubb of SG Securities was also sceptical that a full bid would materialise: "He'll do his due diligence and then try to get the price down but he is asking for the board to recommend it. That seems highly unlikely."

Mr Green is thought to have lined up potential buyers for the parts of Sears he is not interested in keeping. Buyers may include Otto Versand, the German mail-order group that may be in terested in the Freemans home shopping business, and GE Capital, which may be interested in Creation, the Sears store-card operation. Sears shares yesterday closed 6.5p higher at 259p.

Marston finance director Mike Thompson (left) and chief executive Nick Letchet describe the £262m offer as 'woeful'

Marston attacks W&D failure to deliver value

REGIONAL BREWER Marston, BY NIGEL COPE Thompson & Evershed went on the offensive vesterday against the £262m hostile bid from Wolverhampton & Dudley, describing the cash and share offer as "woeful".

After the embarrassment of last week when Marston's shareholders forced the company to postpone plans to securitise its tenanted pubs estate, Marston devoted its en-

tire defence document to an

attack on the W&D record. It said 12 years of management under David Thompson had "demonstrably failed to maximise value for W&D

shareholders". It claimed figures provide by W&D itself showed that the management had been "destroying value in all parts of their business".

executive, said the W&D board "had vacillated on their strategy" and that the creation of a "super-regional brewer" would only give the combined company a market share of 3.1 per cent, insufficient against the power of Britain's big four brewers. He said he would not rule out a merger with another regional brewer, but said this in the half to September. W&D

would be based around beer

Nick Letchet, Marston chief brands and managed outlets, not tenanted estates. W&D hit back by saying that

Marston's document did nothing to advance the debate for industry consolidation. It said W&D had addressed its performance and reported a 10 per cent rise in earnings per share last year compared to an 8 per cent fall in earnings at Marston

claimed Marston's strategy was

"in tatters" after it failed to gain shareholder support for its £137m tenanted pubs securitisation, adding that Marston had not questioned its estimate that the merger would yield at least £12m of cost savings.

W&D's offer consists of 182p in cash plus 0.235 W&D shares for every Marston share held. This values the bid at 282p per

Banana dispute could slip into trade war

THE TRANSATLANTIC trade dispute over bananas exploded into acrimony yesterday, just days before a full summit between Europe and the United

Amid concern that the row could provoke a full-scale trade war, Sir Leon Brittan, Europe's trade commissioner, accused the US of being "petulant" and trying to "avoid justice by runBY STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

ning away from it". Rita Hayes. American ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), responded by arguing that the latest move by the European Union amounted to "a mockery" of the global trading system and its rules.

The bitter dispute arose as

definitive list of European goods on which the US plans to levy a 100 per cent tariff, unless the EU backs down over banana imports. Later it emerged that Wash-

Brussels braced itself for the

publication by Washington of a

ington had delayed publication "for a few days" although there was no sign that the US intends to withdraw its tariff threat.

overshadow Friday's summit between US President Bill Clinton, and Jacques Santer, the European Commission president Washington argues that the

EU banana import regime is unfair to South American distributors, most of which are owned by US companies, because it allows preferential treatment for former Euro-

pean colonies, including the The dispute threatens to Winward islands. The WTO has condemned an

earlier EU banana import system, but Sir Leon argues that 10 changes have been made and that the EU's new regime complies with all of the World Trade Organisation's concerns.

go through the same WTO set- said

tlement procedure, despite the fact that Brussels has agreed to speed up the procedure from 449 days to 170 days. Yesterday Sir Leon an-

nounced that the EU was taking the initiative in asking a WTO panel to hear the case. If the US did not contest it

The US dismisses these as the EU would assume it was in cosmetic and does not want to the right in international law, he

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSIE ENDED a three-day losing streak with a 22.6-point gain to 5,557.1, but supporting shares again gave ground.

Diageo, the spirits group, was the worst-performing Footsie member, down 31.5p to 615.5p on worries that LVMH, the luxury goods group, may cut its 10.84 per cent stake. Advancing blue chips included Vodafone, up 42p to 945p, and BT, up 21p to 881p, boosted by a relatively lenient regulatory review of the mobile phone sector. Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS rose for the first time in four days as General Electric reversed the gloomy trend of the past month by announcing that earnings would be in line with expectations. By mid-afternoon, the Dow Jones had risen 0.3 per cent to 8,720.

Microsoft rose 2 per cent, as investors bought the stock after yesterday's 5 per cent fall. There's still gas left in the tank. They have the strongest pipeline of products in the history of the company," said one analyst.

COKYO

CONTINUING CONCERNS over the health of the banking sector dragged the Nikkei through the 14,000 barrier, before staging a late rally to finish at 14,011, its lowest level since the start of November,

and a 0.7 per cent fall on the day. Yakuda Trust was still reeling from the government's announcement that NCB would be privatised. Shares plunged by 44 per cent, before recovering to close down 17 per cent, as rumours persist that it has under-reported ts bad loans.

₹6 HONG KONG

SHRUGGING OFF overnight declines on Wall Street, Hong Kong shares reversed the fall of the previous three days, with the Hang Seng closing at 9,952, a rise of 1.3 per cent. Cheung Kong Holdings, and its affiliate Hutchison Whampoa,

both rose by nearly 2 per cent as the property developers announced a salary freeze for Hong Kong-based staff. Dealers were not entirely convinced by the gains, as most investors were still sitting on the sidelines.

FRANKFURT

IN A QUIET day's trading, German shares remained largely unchanged, with the benchmark DAX index closing up 0.1 per cent

financial services company, rose 6 per cent after it announced that it will create a separate unit to manage its industrial investments The bank said that the structure of

Deutsche Bank, which is set to become the world's largest

the unit will help it reduce the 50 per cent tax it currently pays when it sells an investment for profit.

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Darling finds a workable solution

NEW LABOUR promised sweeping reform of pensions provision. The Maxwell affair, the scandal of pension mis-selling the reduction in benefits for those contributing to Serps, the breaking of the link between the rise in average earnings and the basic state pension - all these contributed to a sense of national outrage over provision for the retired. It was one of the reasons why John Major lost the election.

As with many things, however, Labour entered government with no clearly defined policy on pensions, other than to do something about the whole wretched mess. Harriet Harman and Frank Field were instructed to conduct a pensions review, they consulted and consulted, argued and argued, and having failed to agree on anything, they were eventually fired.

Now Alistair Darling, the new social services secretary; has come up with what looks to be a rather sensible set of proposals on which the savings industry can be reasonably confident of delivering. True, these proposals stop a long way short of the root and branch reform of pensions provision promised while in opposition. Like Labour's reform of the welfare state, or what we've seen of



OUTLOOK

it so far at least, this is more a case of tinkering with the present system than revolutionising it.

But in the end, this may be no had thing. There was always a major difficulty with introducing compulsion into saving for pensions - however it was dressed up, it would seem like a tax. The Government's alternative proposals for a stakeholder pension for middle income earners without other pension arrangements are commendably simple in composition, while the enhanced system of national insurance rebates ought to ensure the necessary incentive to

What's proposed is a savings product a bit like a PEP a simple. basic thing that everyone ought to exercise is the NAO's failure to "in light of the forthcoming Generhe able to understand. The devil will be in the detail, of course, but on the face of it, there's something work-

By providing a second tier state

pension for lower income owners, which in truth seems to be just a clever piece of house keeping in that it will act as a substitute for the present system of income support, the Government faces up to the industry's reasonable insistence that it is just not possible economically to provide a stakeholder pension for those saving only very small amounts of money. Not a revolution, perhaps, but a very plausible stab at the prob-

Railtrack float

THERE ARE two small but vital words missing from yesterday's National Audit Office report into the privatisation of Railtrack. One is Clare, the other is Short, Coming two-and-a-half years and a change of government after the original flotation in May 1996, the 83-page report may be thought of as largely irrelevant anyway. But what makes it a still more pointless mention the seminal role the then shadow transport secretary played in making sure Railtrack was flogged off at a rock hottom price.

To recap, Railtrack was sold for a enterprise value, including debt, of £2.5bn and has since risen in value threefold to £7.7bn. The NAO chooses, however, not to rehearse Ms Short's role in ensuring the taxpayer was fleeced on such an epic scale. But it was there to read in black and white in the prospectus, "Dependent on availability of resources, and as priorities allow," wrote Ms Short, Labour would "seek by appropriate measures to extend public ownership and control over Railtrack".

Labour thought the statement would derail the privatisation. But all it did was convince a dving Conservative administration and its advisers that if it was going to get Railtrack away before the next election, it had better sell it for a song. And if it was to have any hope of deterring Labour from carrying out Ms Short's renationalisation threat once in power it had better sell 100 per cent of the company rather than, say, 60 per cent.

Apart from a fleeting reference to

al Election", the NAO glosses over Ms Short's pivotal role. Bizarrely, it instead blames the failure to maximise proceeds on the decision not to sell Railtrack off in tranches. The NAO's back-of-a-fag-packet calculation is that had it been a phased sale, with the Government initially

retaining a 40 per cent stake, the pri-

vatisation would have brought in an

extra £1.5bn. In comparison to its investigation into the sale of the rolling stock leasing companies (a rip-off on an even grander scale), the Railtrack report is a slipshod and feeble piece of work. But there is at least a silver lining. The NAO reckons a more realistic valuation for Railtrack should have been £4bn - compared to the £2.5bn the regulator, egged on by Labour, thinks it should be allowed to earn a return on. Perhaps it is just as well

Pathe/Bollore

undersold after all.

IT'S BEGINNING to seem quite like the City over there in Paris. For years the French business estabconcern about investor confidence lishment has been controlled by a as a 10.5 per cent shareholder.

closely knit elite of financiers, professional managers and bankers. Business has been as dirigiste as government. This cosy and protected world is supported by an interlocking structure of cross shareholdings and cascading capital structures, sometimes quite Byzantine in its complexity and obfuscation. Certainly it has seemed immune to outside interference: the idea of shareholder value is as alien to the French palate as a

plate of fish and chips. But perhaps not for much longer. In the past few years the soft underbelly of these structures has come in for persistent attack. Sometimes it has been Anglo-Saxon traders looking for value, at others it is the newer generation of French financiers not bound by the old ways. Here's another example of it.

Vincent Bollore is a Gallic Lord that Clare Short ensured it was Hanson, whose acquisitions have transformed his cigarette making business into a \$1bn fuel and transport empire. Recently he abandoned his attempt to prize open the family-controlled construction group Bouvgues. Now he is turning to Pathe, another family-led enterprise where he yesterday emerged

Pathe has two main assets - a 127 per cent stake in BSkvB and 20 per cent of CanalSatellite, France's leading satellite pay-TV operator, Shares in Pathe trade at a big discount to the value of these two stakes alone. Take in the company's other media interests and there is plainly very substantial breakup value in Pathe not recognised in the share price.

This is not uncommon in French and other continental holding companies, but because they tend to be controlled by family or banking interests - in Pathe's case by Jerome Seydoux and his family - it is not easy to get at the hidden treasures. If you are part of a minority in a French company, you are likely to get legged over.

Mr Bollore, a business enemy of the Seydoux family, thinks he can help realise that value by forcing a sale of the Sky and CanalSatellite stakes. Even five years ago, this sort of shareholder value agitation was almost unheard of in France. Today it is becoming increasingly common. After the launch of the euro in the New Year, integrated European capital markets will become a reality and we are going to see a lot more of this sort of thing, right across the

News Analysis: The Green Paper offers providers great opportunities - and challenges | Rolls-Royce staff

Review is no free **Junch** for pensions industry

AT FIRST glance, Labour's By LEA PATERSON long-awaited proposals for pensions reform, unveiled yesterday look like a dream come true for Britain's pension providers.

If the suggestions contained in the pensions Green Paper become law, the 5 million people in Britain who at present nor access to an occupational scheme will be encouraged via tax breaks - to take out new "stakeholder" pensions to be provided by the private sector.

The Government will, in effect, be introducing millions of new customers to banks, insurance companies and other providers. But there is no such thing as a free lunch, and yesterday's Green Paper contains several proposals designed to limit the profits pension 😹 providers can make from the nev_astakeholder pensions. st. Alistair Darling, the So-

🦟 cial Security Secretary, plans to cap fees for the new pension at between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent - the current industry avs erage is around 1.5 per cent. Perhaps surprisingly, this decision was broadly welcomed by the pensions industry, where many believe the proposed charging structure will help stimulate demand.

Rowan Gormley, chief executive of Virgin Direct, says: "People will start saving when they understand how pensions work and realise that they can no longer be ripped off."

Tephen Ingledew, head of

gathp marketing at the pension company NPI, which has been heavily involved in advising the government on the pension review, adds: "The simplicity, flexibility and low costs of the new stakeholder pension, plus the built-in incentives, will make saving for retirement very popular among the public."

But the fee cap means that pension companies - particu-

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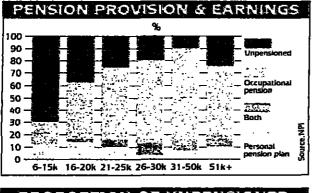
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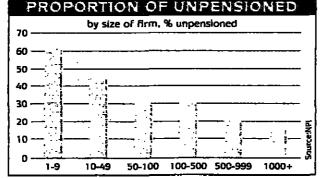
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First Choice Holidays (F)

larly the longer-established ones, which typically have higher cost bases - will have to im-

strategy at CGU, the insurers. prove efficiency to make money. The proposed collective structure of stakeholder pen-"The Government wants a simsions will help on the cost front. ple product with very low The idea is that potential cuscharges." says Adrian Boulding. pensions strategy director at Legal & General. "It's down to tomers do not approach pension companies on an us to operate and administer it individual basis, but instead in an efficient way". go via their employer – who will





Some of the proposals in the Green Paper go some way to helping pension providers get their costs down. The decision to scrap the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps), with its heavy administrative burden, will reduce operating cost. Not surprisingly, this was warmly welcomed by most in the industry.

"I am pleased and surprised

be obliged to offer stakeholder pensions if no occupational scheme is on offer - or another collective body. This helps keep costs down because pension providers can exploit economies of scale. It saves on advertising costs, for example.

the bullet and decided to

change Serps," says Jerry

Barnfield, head of pensions

Again, this part of the Government paper was welcomed by the providers, although employers - who will face an

COMPANY RESULTS X-div Pre-tax (4) Pay day Turnover (£) 259,77m (266.18m) 3.54m (5 10m) -0.100m(0.193m) 0.507m(0.398m) 0.20(0.10) 19.4m(10.303m) 2.2p(1.9p) 50 Qm(15.4m) 13.0p(3.7p) 08.04,99 22.02.99 -5.40p(-3.38p) -26.56m(-14.97m) 18 59m(15.36m) 19.033m(18.748m) 3 650(3.560) 15.02.99 11 01,59 106.341m(103 283m) 4.004m(2.053m) 5.652m(8 745m) 3 9p(1.96p) 10.2p(15.9p) 1,32p(-) 7.0p(7.0p) 06.04.99 27.01.99 48 6E6m/46 295m 01.03.99 73 553m(75.039m) 450.3m(475.5m) 8.8m(35.4m) -0.208m(-0.251m) 4.02p(4.24p) 0.7p(1.8p) 05.02.99 29,12,98 4.1p(3 4p) 134.4m(87 8m) 83.5m(31.4m) 0.080m(0.101m) 10.8p(10.0p) 01.03.99 21 12.98 2,313b(2,241b) 9 8p(2 7p) 0.78p(1 32p) 01.03.99 1 93p(1.74p) 05.04.99 0.450(0.400) 07.05.99 1 594m(2.338m) 23 537m/23.816m)

gets for the proposed low-cost 'stakeholder' pensions that the Government has bitten increased administrative bur-

strike labour deal

THE WORKFORCE at Rolls-Royce Motor Cars vesterday agreed a Rover-style labour deal that guarantees their jobs in return for flexibility in working hours.

The company, which is owned by Volkswagen of Germany and has a workforce of 2.500, will adopt the new working time initiative in the new year. Under the scheme, employees will stay at home on full pay when demand is slack but work extra hours beyond the standard 37-hour week during peak periods.

Employees will be able to bank up to 300 hours a year in their "working time account". The new arrangements will virtually eliminate overtime working and premium payments at Rolls-Royce's Crewe plant in Cheshire, producing

By MICHAEL HARRISON

cost savings for the company. Rover's 37,000-strong workforce signed up to a similar deal last week but only after its German owner, BMW, threatened to close the Longbridge plant unless it received agreement to 2,500 job losses and cost savings of £150m a year.

In contrast to the crisis at Rover, Graham Morris, chief executive of Rolls-Royce, said: "This innovative arrangement has been concluded in a very 'Rolls-Royce way' – quietly, efficiently and without fuss."

A spokesman described the agreement as an insurance policy and stressed that Rolls-Royce did not expect the downturn it has experienced this year, with sales down 14 per cent, to continue into 1999

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yesterday's proposals did not harm company pension schemes: indeed, the Government emphasised that occupational schemes were the right answer for many people. However the introduction of the stakeholder pensions could reduce demand for non-pension savings vehicle Tessas, PEPs, and so forth - and this could damage profitability.

den - were less keen. The Gov-

ernment has made it clear,

however, that it expects cost

savings of this type to be passed

new pensions will also hurt

margins. "Demand will be high

from customers, but competi-

tion will be intense," says Mr

Boulding. The market is al-ready full to bursting with com-

panies sell pensions, and over

the past few years many non-

traditional players have moved

into pensions. The scramble to

provide the best possible deal,

combined with the improved

transparency of the new

scheme, will mean that high-

cost providers lose out - good

news for customers, but bad for

"cannibalisation" of existing

savings vehicles. When the

Government launched its pen-

sions review a year ago, one of

the industry's greatest con-

cerns was that stakeholder

pensions might be more at-

tractive than existing pension

arrangements, prompting ex-

tensive switching from per-

sonal or occupational schemes

There was wide relief that

Then there is the problem of

the bottom line.

Competition to provide the

on to customers.

"Stakeholder pensions will be the savings vehicle for many people going forward," says Mr Tompkins of PwC. "Tessas and PEPs were the vehicle of the late 1980s and early 1990s." The new pension plans do

represent a great opportunity for the pension companies, so it is hardly surprising that the plans were well-received by the industry. They give the companies access to millions of new customers - not only for stakeholder pensions but also, potentially, for a wide range of other financial products.

To make the most of this, though, the companies will have to work hard on their cost base and maintaining demand for existing savings vehicles. Only the most efficient and most imaginative will prosper in the brave new pension world.



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EPENDENT

Emap's \$1.2bn **US** deal stirs investor fears

SHARES IN Emap lost almost By PETER THAL LARSEN g per cent of their value yesterday as the magazine publishing group launched a £359m rights issue to help fund its \$1.2bn (£730m) acquisition of Petersen, the US magazine publisher.

The stock fall came a day after Emap admitted that it was in talks with Petersen, a special-interests magazine group whose titles include Teen, Hot Rod and Guns &

Emap shares dropped 80p to 970p as investors took fright at the price of the deal and the rights issue, under which shareholders will be able to buy one new share at 875p for every five shares they own.

Kevin Hand, Emap chief acutive, defended the company's decision to tap its shareholders for cash. "We wanted to give our other businesses sufficient headroom for expansion going forward,"

Mr Hand said Petersen was

a perfect fit for Emap. The company, which has beadquarters in New York and Los Angeles, publishes a large range of special-interest mag-azines and has also started to run television and radio shows and internet websites.

Mr Hand said Petersen provided Emap with a great opportunity to launch some its popular journal titles in the US. The company has been looking for ways to start publishing FHM. its hugely successful men's magazine, for a US audience.

"Petersen have a structure and a network in place," he said. "They also have a database of 17 million males aged between 18 and 35, which is the market we want to reach."

Emap may also launch some of its other UK titles, such as Smash Hits or Just Seventeen, in the US.

It is not planning to bring any of Petersen's magazines to

the UK, although Mr Hand said the acquisition would bring valuable skills into

Emap first tried to buy the company three years ago when it was put up for sale by Ron Petersen, its founder, but was outbid by the current management team, which

All the existing management are staying on board. Jim Dunning, Petersen's chairman and chief executive, will be

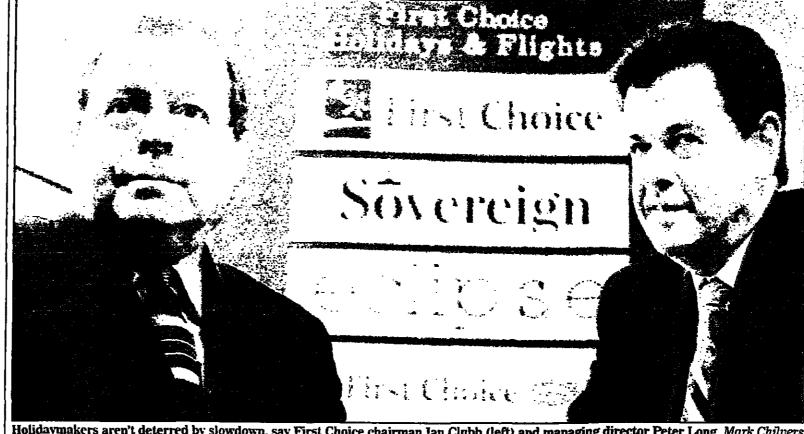
In the nine months to September. Petersen reported earnings before interest tax. depreciation and amortisation

tabled a \$500m offer.

joining Emap's board. Analysts were concerned

by the price given the lack of obvious synergies between the two companies. "It's a good strategic fit, but it looks very pricey," one specialist said. "Does it make sense just when advertising spending is slowing down?"

of \$59.4m on revenues of



Holidaymakers aren't deterred by slowdown, say First Choice chairman Ian Clubb (left) and managing director Peter Long Mark Chilvers

Rising bookings keep First Choice airborne

FEARS OF economic downturn have not deterred the British public from holidaying abroad, said lan Clubb, chairman of First Choice Holidays.

"The travel industry has bucked the trend in retail, where decreasing consumer confidence has depressed demand. Holidays are a 'must

BY SIMON DUKE

have' rather than part of discretionary spending," said Mr Clubb yesterday. Summer 1999 bookings are

up 14 per cent on the same time last year, he said. Winter reservations are 6 per cent ahead. First Choice, which report-

ed a 59 per cent rise in full-year nopolies and Mergers Compre-tax profits before exceptionals to £35m, is applying a "cautious approach" to summer capacity, which it will cut by up to 5 per cent, to avoid a repetition of 1995 when excess capacity led to huge discounting.

The holiday industry has had

phin and Intatravel in recent mission allowed tour operators to sell directly through their own distribution arms. The big four - Thomas Cook, Thomson, Airtours and First Choice - scrambled to raise their shares of the

high-street market. First Choice, which bought profits to £50m. The shares the retail chains Baker's Dol-

months, plans to treble the capacity of its 200-strong chain in the coming year, primarily through opening 20 "holiday hypermarkets" in retail parks. The acquisitions boosted

First Choice's full-year pre-tax

a turbulent year since the Mo-

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

IN BRIEF Fund managers take **Procurement bill** faces £12bn cut

THE GOVERNMENT is aiming to cut its £12bn procurement yoy at least £600m through THE UK'S top fund managers BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA a New efficiency drive. Peter Gershon, managing director of Marconi Electronic

Systems, who has been brought in to conduct a threemonth review of procedures, has written to chief executives and permanent secretaries across Whitehall seeking input as to how the efficiency savings can be made.

BBA buys US firm

SFARES IN BBA closed up 14 at 345p after the aviation to materials technology group agreed to buy US aviation services networks company AMR Combs for \$170m (£100.6m). The transaction would be on a debt-free, cashfree basis and satisfied in cash out of existing resources The group said it expected the acquisition to enhance earnings in the first full year

"Quite simply, it is a good deal - hances its aiready strong aviation business," said Guy Hewitt, an engineering analyst at Charterhouse

Scoot link-up

FREEPAGES, the interactive services company, yesterday said it had joined up with Freeserve Internet, Dixons' subscription-free service. Freepages, which operates as Scoot, said it was providing isers with information on wer 2 million businesses

hout the UK through a nk on Freeserve. Its cinema uide will be integrated into he Freepage site.

on the 12th January 1999.

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refuge in safe havens

have turned increasingly bearish on the economic outlook are partially cushioned from and are seeking refuge in de- the slowdown. fensive stocks, reveals a survey published by Merrill Lynch

In its monthly poll of fund managers, the US bank found that in December only 6 per cent of Britain's leading instieconomy in 1999, down from 9 per cent a year ago.

The fund managers anticiexpand by just 1 per cent in The mounting gloom is to property.

pushing institutions towards

According to the survey, three-quarter of fund managers favour traditionally defensive "growth" stocks such as pharmaceuticals and utilities. A tiny minority are still keen on "cyclical" stocks, such tutions expected a stronger as construction and highstreet retailers, in the hope of

a near-term recovery. The City's pessimism was pate a year of sluggish growth, also reflected in fund manwith the British economy set to agers' preference for UK gilts a traditional safe-haven in dif-1999 and by 1.8 per cent in 2000. ficult times - and their aversion

However, institutions be-

the economy will prompt the Bank of England to slash interest rates over the next 12 months: every fund manager polled by Merrill Lynch expected UK rates to fall in 1999. On average, they believe

that rates will touch 5.4 per cent by the end of next year, from the current 6.25 per cent. "Fund managers are defensive and are playing it safe," according to Trevor Greetham,

Merrill Lynch's global ana-

"They are saying that they expect cuts in base rates to the year 2000. They expect the economy to bounce back, but it will be nothing to write home companies whose earnings lieve that the troubled state of about," said Mr Greetham.

FSA lifts jobs freeze at Pru

THE PRUDENTIAL has been told it can recruit staff for its direct sales-force again for the first time since it was reprimanded by the Securities and Investments Board last year over methods used by some staff to boost their commission income.

These included selling second pensions to existing customers rather than encouraging them to top up existing pension plans meaning they incurred an additional set of charges.

They also advised non-taxpaying clients to invest in a Prudential Savings Account when tax-exempt products would have been more suitable.

to around 3,000.

By Clifford German

A recruitment "freeze" was imposed in May 1997 after the the insurance giant was ordered to test and where necessary retrain its direct sales-

Management controls have been tightened, but one-third of the Pru's branch offices have been closed and the sales-force has been run down from 5,500

A new remuneration package has also been introduced, which will provide sales staff with a basic salary worth at least 60 per

their dependence on bonuses and commission income.

The Pru has now been given the go-ahead by the Financial Services Agency - which replaced the SIB - to resume recruitment. The company is advertising for staff but there are no plans to increase numbers significantly and total numbers are expected to fluctuate between 2,500 and 3,000.

Over 60 per cent of the Pru's sales are channelled through independent financial advisers, and this side of the business has grown by 70 per cent over the past year, partly due to its purcent of their total pay and reduce chase of Scottish Amicable.

Upbeat Pearson bucks media trend

PEARSON, the Financial Times-to-Baywatch group, yesterday bucked the gloomy trend in the media sector with an upbeat trading statement.

Shares in the company soared more than 4.5 per cent to £11.10 after it reassured the City that it had not been hit by the problems plaguing some of its competitors and reiterated its target of double-digit earnings growth.

In its annual update, Pearson, which owns Penguin books and the recently-acquired US publisher Simon & Schuster, said that trading in the second half of the year was "in line with expectations".

Revenues and operating profits continued to grow during the period despite a multimillion pound investment in the Financial Times and the strength of sterling, the company said.

The announcement was greeted with relief by City analysts, who said they would retain their full-year profit forecast of around £350m. Industry experts had braced following recent downbeat these uncertain times".

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

statements from a number of Pearson's rivals. Several publishing companies have been hit by a fall in advertising rates caused by the global economic slowdown.

Earlier this month, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant Reed Elsevier issued a profit warning, while only last week the TV and newspaper group United News & Media predicted that earnings would fall short of market estimates.

"Pearson put out a robust statement. There was some nervousness around given that a number of rivals had said that everything was disastrous." said Louise Barton at Henderson Crosthwaite. She added that Pearson had

benefited from the radical restructuring and tight cost controls introduced by the chief executive Marjorie Scardino. The company said that, de-

spite a worsening economic climate, it had become less dependent on advertising revenues and "better placed to themselves for a bearish update grow revenues and profits in

With effect from 16 December 1998 the following interest rates will apply on the savings accounts listed below. Rate p.a. £50,000 (Interest paid annually) 6.80% 6.25% 6.80% 6.25% 5.00% £25,000 6.55% 6.55% 6.00% 6.00% 4.80% 4.52% 5.75% 5.75% 5.20% 4.16% 5.20% 4.65% 4.65% 3.72% 5.00% 5.00% 4.45% £50,000 5.90% 5.30% 4.24% 5.90% £25,000 5.05% 5.65% 5.65% 5.05% 4.04% £10.000 5.25% 5.25% 4.65% 4.65% 3.72% 4.95% 4.95% 4.35% 4.35% 3.12% (Interest paid monthly) £50,000 5.70% 5.22% 4.08% 5.59% 4.85% 4.96% 3.88% 4.54% 4.45% 3.56% 4.23% 3.32% 4.30% 4.39% 3.76% 2.96% (Interest paid annually, 5.00% 5.00% 4,30% 4.30% 3.44% £25,000 4.50% 4.50% 3.80% 3.04% £10,000 4.25% 4.25% 3.55% 3.55% 2.84% £5,000 4.00% 4.00% 3.30% 3.30% 2.64% £2,000 3.55% 3.55% 2.95% 2.95% 2.36% £500 3.45% 3.45% 2.85% 2,85% 2.28% 2.25% 2.25% 1.50% 7.45% 6.85% 6.63% ++ 6.13% ++ £50,000 (Interest paid annually) 3.05% 3.05% 2.45% £25,000 2.90% 2.90% 2.30% 2.30% 1.84% £10,000 2.65% 2.65% 2.05% 2.05% £5.000 2.25% 2.25% 1.65% 1.65% 1.32% £2.000 2.00% 2.00% 1.40% 1.40% 1.12% 1.20% £500 1.70% 1.70% 1.20% 0.96% 0.50% 0.50% 0.50% 0.40% £50,000 (Interest paid quarterly) 1.92% £25,000 2.27% 1.80% £10,000 2.63% 2.00% 1.60% 2.02% £5,000 2.22% 1.60% 1.61% 1.28% £2,000 1.95% 1.96% 1.35% 1.36% 1.08% 1.65% 1.66% 1.15% 1.15% 0.92% 0.45% 0.45% 0.45% 0.36% (Interest paid annually) 5.00% 5.00% 4.50% 4.50% 3.60% 5.00% 5.09% 4.50% 4.58% 3.60% (Interest paid quarterly) 5.00% 5.09% 4.50% 4.58% 3.60% **ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS** 5.60% 5.17% ++ 5,10% 4.74% ++ £100,000 3.84% + (interest paid annually) 5.40% + 2.80% 4.70% + 3.76% + 3.30% 2,70% £50,000 5.30% + 4.45% + 2.45% 3.56% + £25,000 5.05% + 3.05% 4.00% + £10,000 4.60% + 2.60% 2.00% 3.20% + 2.35% 3.75% + 3,00% + £5,000 4.35% + 1.75% 0.40% 0.50% £100,000 4.65% + 2.68% 3.72% + 5.25% + (interest paid monthly) 4,55% + 2.58% 3.64% + £50.000 5.15% + 3.20% 2.94% 4.30% + 2.32% 3.44% + 4.90% + 2.48% 3.85% + £10,000 4.45% + 3.08% 4 2.22% £5,000 3.60% + 1.61% 2.88% + 4.20% + 0.50% 0.40% 0.50% **YK** The Royal Bank **36** of Scotland



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

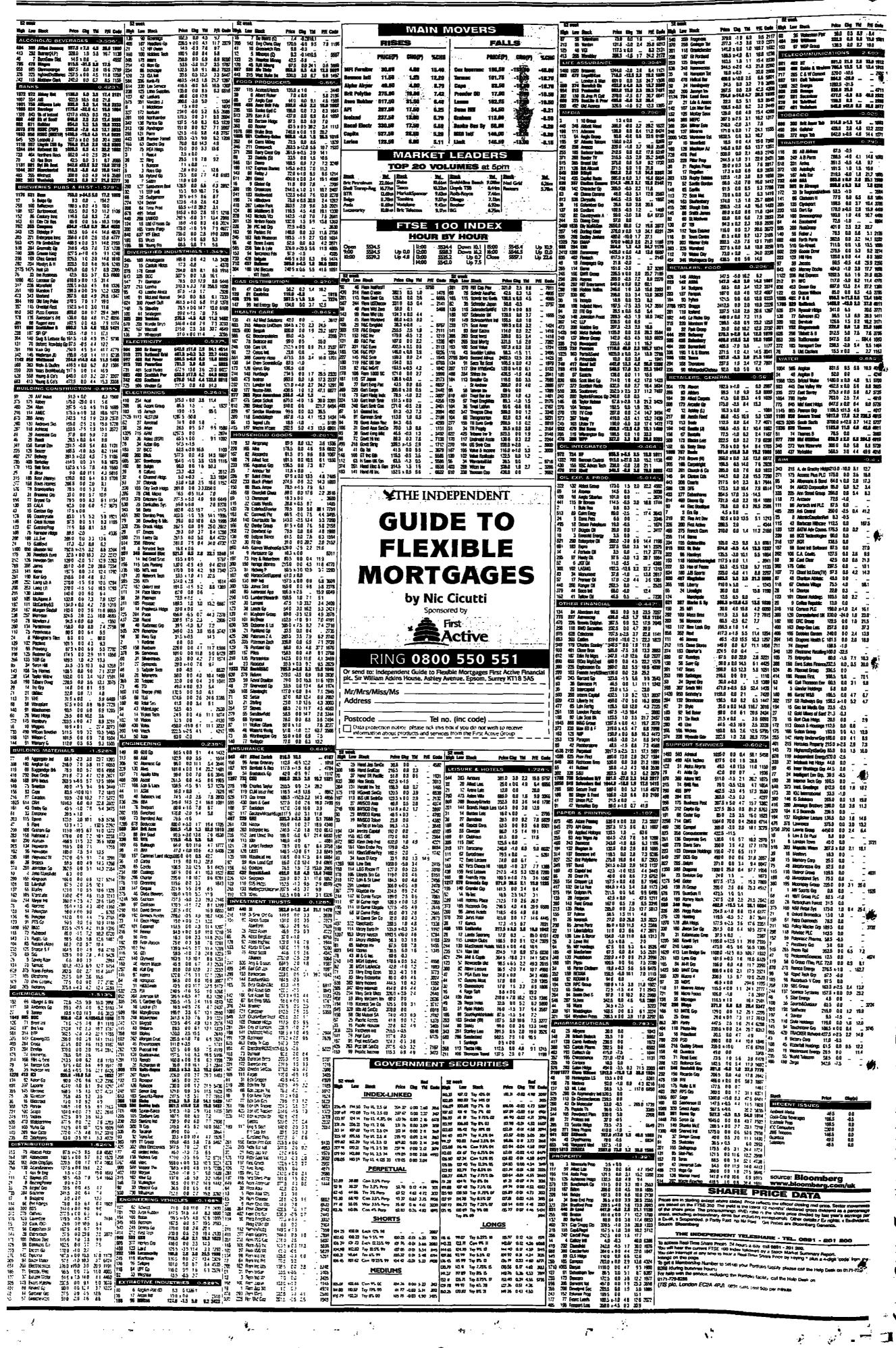
interest rates and tiers are correct at 16.12.98 and are variable. "Gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax to non tax paying austomers Annual equivalent rate (AEE) is a noticinal rate which illustrates the gross interest rate (excluding any bonus interest payable) as if paid and compounded on an annual base. + Pates rectude a 200% gross p.a. (1.60% net p.a.) annuers y boms which will be paid if no withdrawals are made during the 12 month period other than on the anniversary date, and the balance does not fall below £5,000 ++ interest is not compounded. The AEF assumes that the maximum balance permitted by the inland Revenue is deposited at the earliest opportunity (each year)

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DEPENDENT &

Hot gossip fails to warm up shares

DIAGEO, the wine and spirits giant. had a hungover look as worries grew that LVMH, the French luxury goods group, was planning another cut in its shareholding.

Bernard Arnault, the Parishased financier who created the sprawling LVMH empire, has in the past sold off shares in the drinks behemoth to raise cash to develop LVMH. So confirmation that talks are going on which could lead to LVMH buying the Sanott beauty business sent alarm bells ringing among Diageo followers.

The spirits group, taking in such brands as Johnnie Walker scotch whisky and Smirnof: vodka, was formed by the merger of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness. LVMH once had 24 per cent of Guinness but its stake was reduced ahead of the merger, an event which did not please Mr Arnault.

LVMH now has 10.84 per cent of Diageo and Mr Arnault is a director of the spirits group. He would, no doubt, like to realise some of his involvement, particularly as the distribution and marketing association between Diageo and LVMH's Champagne and Cognac brandy

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

interests no longer needs the sup-

port of a shareholding. Although well below their 778p high, Diageo's shares have held up relatively well. But with the LVMH story swirling around they were the worst-performing Footsie constituent, falling 31.5p in busy trad-

ing to 615.5p. Zeneca, the drugs group, provided the other hot story. In volatile trading the shares rose 73p to 2.587p, accompanied by stories that the proposed merger with Astra was about to be scuppered by a hos-

tile bid, possibly from SmithKlein Beecham, Doubts about the feasibility of the Anglo-Swedish merger have been growing and the market is clearly receptive to any suggestion of a counter-offer. SB, which has been involved in unsuccessful takeover talks with Glaxo Wellcome and American Home Prod-

ucts, rose 17p to 787p. Merck, the US drugs group, is also thought to be unhappy about the alliance as its marketing link with Astra is a casualty of the deal. It is not expected to mount a bid but could attempt to unsettle the relationship. It is said to be likely to demand a high ransom for allowing its marketing link with Astra to unravel. Astra has an agreement to buy the Merck involvement in their joint venture in 2008, but any merger by the Swedes before then could

require heavy compensation. Tarmac, after the surprise collapse of its deal with Aggregate industries, fell 12.25p to 101.75p; Aggregate lost 2.25p to 68.75p.

Elsewhere on the merger front Sears gained 6.50 to 2590 on highstreet entrepreneur Philip Green's conditional offer. Newcastle Utd's mystery suitor left the shares 6.5p down at 98.50.

Footsie, after a struggle, ended with a 22.6-point gain at 5,557.1, with telecoms constituents contributing most of it. Supporting shares re-

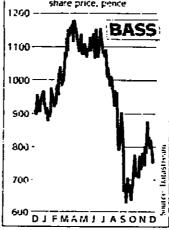
SHIELD DIAGNOSTIC, raising £2.3m through an institutional placing at 470p, appears to have upset one big

shareholder. A trade of 149,000 shares went through at 468p a few hours after the call was known. The shares were sold at 25p, even 30p, below the then price. One suggestion was that an institution took exception to the placing because it understood that Shield would not need more cash. The shares ended at 510p.

mained under pressure, and government stocks moved ahead. Drink and restaurant shares

gave ground as worries about Christmas spending cast a shadow. Bass slumped 34.5p to 755p. Pearson, the banking and media

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence BASS 1000 —



group, recovered from Monday's weakness as the signalled trading statement was more positive than expected. The shares rose 48p to 1.110p. Pearson's comments helped Reuters. 17p higher to 540.5p. and Reed International, 12.25p to 442p.

Telecoms rejoiced from the relatively lenient mobile phones review Vodafone topped the Footsie leader board with a 42p gain to 945p:

to 881p. Even Cable & Wireless, on the hunt for a new chief, managed a 13.5p gain to 706.5p.

House of Fraser, the department store chain, was unloved.

ACORN, a high-yield fund, is being launched to capitalise on the slump in small company shares, which have underperformed by 40 per cent in two years. With many tiddlers offering high-dividend yields Acorn, to be quoted in London and Guernsey will specialise in shares such as Leeds, the textile group, now offering a return of around 16 per cent. Peter Webb and John McClure of Eaglet investment

tumbling 2.5p to 53.5p, a new low. The market was unsettled by stories that the group is having a particularly disappointing Christmas. Marks & Spencer was another ca-

group will be Acorn's advisors.

Orange rose 25p to 638p and BT 21p furniture chain, despite a 226m half-time loss, railied 4p to 30p.

Alpha Airports rose 4p to 49.5p on talk that the Harrods stake is about to change hands. Lopex, the marketing group, gained 6p to 47p as Incepta. the City public relations group, lifted its stake to 26.9 per cent. Southwind, a company run by Incenta chairman Bob Morton, has just over 3 per cent.

Healthcare group Oxford Biomedica added a further 1p to 13p following its genes link with Rhone-Poulenc Rorer. Reunion, the miner. softened 5p to 42.5p after announcing a £505,000 placing with institutional investors. They are being

offered shares at 50.5p. Rumours that Premier Oil plans a write-down of its exploration and production assets knocked the shares 2p to 17p. Cox Insurance was the day's worst performer. slumping 45 per cent to 186.5p after a profits warning. Analysts now expect year's figures of around £17m, down from the earlier £28m.

SEAQ VOLUME: 806.9 million SEAQ TRADES: 63,764 sualty of the festive shopping malaise, off 12p to 396.25p. The MFI GILTS INDEX: 115.16 +0.82

Investment: Furniture retailer hopes a radical restructure will lift its prospects

MFI posts £26m half-year loss

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

MFI, the struggling furniture retailer vesterday cut its dividend and announced that the costs of a radical re-structuring programme had pushed the group into a £26m loss at the half year stage.

The losses were higher than sost expectations due to the inclusion of a £12m property provision on a warehouse that is now surplus to requirements. Total exceptional charges were £35m.

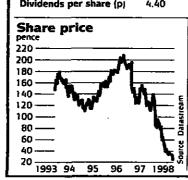
MFT's chief executive John Randall said the shake-up would be "substantially complete" by the time the stores start their winter sale on Boxing Day and would lead to annual cost savings of £25m a year.

The re-structure, announced in July, has included 1.500 job cuts and the stripping out of 7,000 product ses such as textiles and household oducts to concentrate exclusively on kitchens and bedrooms. It has also closed its in-store stripping out so many product lines.

warehouses and will service cus- MFI will suffer reduced footfall. tomers via home delivery from 12 regional depots instead. However, analysts have criticised said. "But our message will be clear.

the strategy saying the attempt to Customers will know exactly what re-invent MFI risked alienating ex- we are selling and how it is availisting customers. The stores could able."

MFI: AT A GLANCE Market value. £177m, share price 30p (+4p) Trading record 1998 '97/98 98/99 Turnover (£m) Earnings per share (p) 4.20 -4.00 Dividends per share (p) 4.80 4.90 1.80 0.70 Group sales by division



lose shoppers who wish to take

"There is some business we must

be prepared to lose." Mr Randall

420 1997/98 1998/99 400 380

MFI recognises the weakness of bedroom sectors, leading to a 10.6 home items on the day of purchase. its brand name but plans to invest per cent fall in UK sales. The City is also concerned that by more marketing power behind its for that," Mr Randall said.

One of MFTs problems is that consumer spending has been weakening rapidly in its core kitchen and format.



John Randall: Shake-up will be complete by Boxing Day

Although its market share is con-

kitchen names such as Hygena and stant at 27 per cent, the whole mar-unlikely. Schreiber. "Trn not denying there are ket is down by 9-10 per cent over the people for whom the MFI name is year. The second problem is that their focus on kitchens. Ikea is exticularly with its larger Warehouse

A third issue is that as part of its strategy of expanding its exposure to kitchens and bedrooms, MFI is trying to capture a larger share of more upmarket, added-value purchases. This will take the company into competition with smaller, niche operators that are likely to offer higher levels of service.

"MFTs brand positioning is seen as mass market and it is going to be very difficult to change that. Maybe they should stick to what they are good at," one analyst said.

However, other sector specialists said that radical action was essential: "If you strip out the profits of the manufacturing business and take account of the property benefit from freehold stores, the retailing operations are losing a packet," one said.

MFI shares, which stood at more than 200p in 1996, rose 4p to 30p yesterday, just above their all-time low. Mr Randali said there had been no expression of interest about a possible bid and analysts said a bid was

The manufacturing business would put off a lot of buyers so the a turn-off, but there is no quick fix powerful competitors are increasing share price is likely to stay where it is," said another analyst. "If anything panding its presence as is B&Q, par- it will go lower. The management's track record is not that good - they have kept changing their minds."

Bid for Sears revives those 1980s feelings

THE TEAM advising Philip Green on his "will he. won't he" bid for Sears brings back some interesting memories of the 1980s.

The corporate finance team at Rea Brothers, the investment bank working for Mr Green, includes William Tebbit, son of Lord Tebbit, former Tory minister and Chingford bruiser. Lord Tebbit also happens to be a non-executive director of Sears.

So, I ask, has Tebbit Junior discussed the bid with Tebbit Senior? "Of course not," replies William Tebbit. Yes, but isn't it difficult avoiding the subject? "It's easy when you live 60 miles apart," he says.

Tebbit Junior is a director at Rea Brothers, while the head of corporate finance is Nicholas Wells - one of the former 1980s whizz kids who fell foul of the Blue Arrow affair.

Mr Wells resigned from BZW in the DTI report into the fiasco. Earlier he worked for County NatWest when NatWest still had an investment banking side) and helped mastermind the £837m rights issue for Blue Arrow to fund the acquisition of Manpower County claimed the issue

had been a success, when it hadn't. Mr Wells was acquitted of fraud in 1992 by the Court of Appeal. He was and remains highly respected within the Square Mile. After he left BZW some thought he might follow his strong religious leanings and devote himself full time to the Church. but in 1996 he reappeared as a director at Rea Brothers.

ONE ORGANISATION which picked up a "Golden Bull" award at the Plain English Campaign Awards last week in London was the Inland Revenue. with a letter which contained a sentence 120-words long. Ian Bingham. a tax partner with Pannel Kerr Forster in Manchester, was unimpressed: "I thought that was quite reasonable, for the tax man."

a 37-year-old golden boy from Rank Leisure to be managing director of its pubs and restaurants business. Mark McQuater replaces Roger Young, who will be stepping down from the board next week. While at Rank Mr McQuater was managing director of the Tom Cobleigh pub PEOPLE AND **BUSINESS**

By John WILLCOCK

THE BANK of England may have shut down most of its regional offices in the past few years in a fit of cost-cutting zeal, but it still likes to keep in touch with the common folk out in the provinces (whatever people in the North-east might think).

The Bank retains a team of a dozen agents scattered around the UK who advise the bods in Threadncedle Street on economic conditions in the country at 1989 after being heavily criticised in large. When the Monetary Policy Committee meets to decide on interest rates, for instance, it will use the agents' evidence in its musings.

Yesterday the Bank appointed two new agents - Chris Brown for the East Midlands and Mark Pratt for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Both bave worked for the Bank for more than 20 years. Mr Brown lists his hobbies as "DIY, caravanning, and anything to do with boats", while Mr Pratt is into "hill walking and easy cycling".

Plenty of opportunities to meet "the people" there.

when he was still in short trousers. presumably - he was a director of NatWest Equity Partners and managing director of JD Wetherspoon.

ONE OF the more affable figures in the world of retail banking. Sir Brian Pearse, has been appointed chairman of the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, the third person to hold the post. Sir Pearse was finance director of Barclays from 1987 THE GREENALLS Group has poached to 1991 when the Bank of England parachuted him into the hot seat at Midland. Coincidentally, one of his predecessors as chief executive of the Midland, Sir Kit McMahon, was also the CSFTs first chairman.

People and Business welcomes any contributions. Please send e-mails restaurant chain, and before that - to indubusiness@independent.co.uk.

Gellnet holds key to Securicor NFC prepares to brake

SECURICOR, the security and dis- By PETER THAL LARSEN tribution group, disappointed the City with results at the low end of expectations and downbeat comments about the economic outlook.

when, and at what price, it will sell its 40 per cent shareholding in mobile phone group Cellnet.

Shares in Securicor fell by 3p to 477.5p as the company reported t flagging consumer confidence resulted in volumes of parcel deliveries in its distribution division which has a large exposure to highstreet retailers - being lower than the company had expected.

"It seems that Christmas has been postponed this year," said Chris Shirtcliffe, Securicor's finance

Overall, pre-tax profits for the 12 months to September jumped to r83.5m from £31.4m the previous

vear, when Securicor profits were dented by a number of one-off items. The figures showed large swings The results offered few new clues in the company's different divisions. to the important issue for Profits in the security business Securicor's stock market value: jumped by 34 per cent to £33.5m as price competition eased and investment in information technol-

> But profits in the distribution division fell to £24.3m from £28.8m. reflecting the justification for its £200m joint venture with Deutsche Post, the German postal group, which was announced last month.

In Securicor's communications

worth as much as £3bn. ogy systems paid off.

division losses widened to £21.6m. reflecting the investment in Intek. the US private radio network operator. The group is planning to sink another £25m into Intek in the coming year, most of it to pay for the radio spectrum which the company won in the recent radio auction in the US.

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Mr Shirtcliffe confidently predicted that the communications division would turn a profit in 2000.

Nevertheless, Cellnet remains the key. Booming share prices for mobile phone stocks have helped to propel Securicor shares into the FTSE 100 earlier this year. Analysts estimate that, at current valuations, Securicor's 40 per cent stake is

However, the question is whether British Telecom will pay the market price for the stake. Other analysts believe that the agreement between the two shareholders means that Securicor cannot sell its stake without first offering it to BT. The issue is set to hot up this year as BT decides whether to use Cellnet as its vehicle to bid for a licence to operate a

third-generation mobile network. "BT is simply not going to overpay for Cellnet," one observer said. "Meanwhile, the profit forecasts just keep coming down."

INTEREST RATES

as UK slowdown looms

NFC, the transport and logistics By FRANCESCO GUERRERA group, yesterday became the latest company to warn that the slowdown in the economy will hit its business in the new year.

The owner of Allied Pickfords removals and Exel Logistics said that weakness in several markets would put the brakes on its UK operations.

Gerry Murphy, the chief executive, said NFC's outsourcing activities would suffer from the slump in manufacturing, with automotive and chemicals operations particularly affected. The downturn in the housing market would squeeze Pickfords' personal moving business.

Mr Murphy said NFC was partly insulated from economic vagaries as around one-third of its logistics contracts were long-term. However, the rest were tied to client performance and would reduce earnings if the economy deteriorated.

The bearish statement triggered profit downgrades for 1999 from about

£114m to £108m. The shares feli 3p to 117p. The news overshadowed 1998 results in line with expectations: pretax profit rose 9 per cent to £126.1m on turnover down 3 per cent to £2.3bn. Analysts noted that the company

was vulnerable to a UK slump as Britain accounts for over 60 per cent of earnings, and strong growth in US business would not be enough to offset a UK slowdown. NFC's troubled European operations are only expected to break even in 1999.

Peter Bergius at ABN Amro rates the shares, trading on 10 times 1999 earnings, a hold. Other experts concede that NFC is in good shape to weather a downturn after restructuring, but say there is little upside for the shares.

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Germany	3.34 -	0.01	3.20			-0.01		0.01		0.04
Italy	2.86 -	0.03	3.13 -	-0.01 -0.02	3.24	-0.04	3.36	-0.01		0.00
				-0.02	0.49	-0.02	0.88	-0.04		0.00
N'lands						0.02		0.00	3.94	0.02
Spain	2.95	0.00	2.95	0.00	3.14	-0.01	3.41	-0.01	4.06	0.0D
Sweden	3.63	0.01	3.49				3.73			0.02
Stand	1.49	0.08	1.54	0.05	1.41	0.07	1.79	0.00	2.23	0.02
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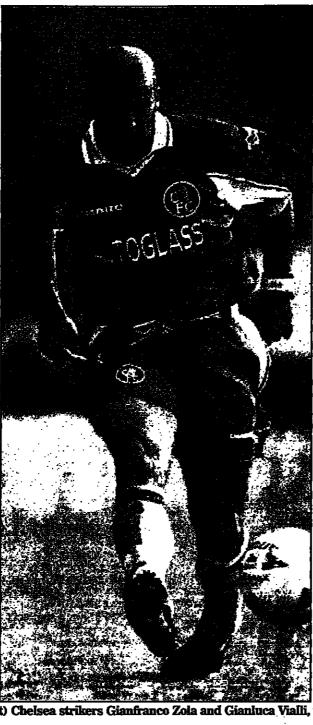
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i	Cocoa	Coffee	Baricy	,	Potato	es es	Soya B	e ans"
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ł	Mar99 933.00	Mar991825.00	Mar99	79.50	Anr99	323.00		
ļ	May 99 952.00	May991768.00		80.75		338.00	Jun99 9	
	Vol: 0	Vol: 0		0.73	Vol:	0.00	Vol:	
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SPORT

Special reserves: Manchester United and Chelsea, who meet at Old Trafford tonight, have quality cover in all areas









I'll be your substitute, whenever you want me: (left to right) Chelsea strikers Gianfranco Zola and Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, and Manchester United midfielders Roy Keane and Nicky Butt

Race to keep up with flying squads

STRENGTH IN DEPTH: THE UNTOUCHABLES AND THEIR UNDERSTUDIES

1st XI

David Seamar

14 Martin Keow

Nigel Winterburn

6 Tony Adams

15 Ray Parlour

17 Emmanuel Petit

11 Marc Overmars

9 Nicolas Anelka

Patrick Vielra

10 Dennis Bergkamp

2 Lee Dixon

ASTON VILLA are the Pre- By STEVE TONGUE the defending champions, in a John Gregory are not of that 12 months ago, but those shrewd chaps who lay the odds are in no doubt that tonight's meeting of Manchester United and Chelsea brings together the two teams most likely to win the title next May. Leading bookmakers offer United at nothing better than even money, with Chelsea at 5-2; Arsenal and Villa can both be backed at 6-1, though there has been no rush. to bite off the hand that writes the book.

Among all the relevant factors, a deeply significant one appears to be the strength in depth that this evening's contestants can offer. As Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, puts it: "It's clearly influencing punters that should each of the clubs have two or three crucial injuries. United and Chelsea are going to be in a better position to bring in comparable replacements."

While Alex Ferguson and Gianluca Vialli have at their disposal half a dozen experienced internationals waiting in the wings, the understudies avail-

quality. They need to be, if in the World Cup?) they be- Cup. only because these days they are far more likely to be called upon. In 1981, Villa won the championship using only 14 players; last season Arsenal needed 26.

Reserves can no longer be fading seniors or raw juniors jogging along in the Football Combination or the Central League, and waiting with varying degrees of patience for one of the regulars to collect an were introduced for League

Peter Schmeiche

24 Wes Brown

6 Jaap Stam

3 Denis Irwin

16 Roy Keane

11 Ryan Giggs

19 Dwight Yorke

9 Andy Cole

Gary Neville

David Beckham

MANCHESTER UTD

2nd XI

17 Rai van der Gouw

31 John Curtis

21 Henning Berg

David May

Ronny Johnse

15 Jesper Blomqvist

20 Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

10 Teddy Sheringham

Nicky Butt

14 Jordi Cruyff

came important members of a squad.

1st XI

T Ed de Goev

17 Albert Ferrer

Franck Leboeul

Marcel Desailly

16 Roberto di Matteo

Gustavo Povet

10 Pierluighi Casiraghi

25 Gianfranco Zola

Celestine Babayaro

14 Graeme Le Saux

Dennis Wise

The need for depth in that squad was particularly felt by United and Chelsea four seasons ago, when each struggled in Europe because of regulations restricting the number of non-Englishmen. The formidable squads that the respective clubs have subsequently built up could be said to date from having to leave out Peter injury. Once five substitutes Schmeichel from a Champions' League game in Barcelona

Vialii, in particular, has emphasised that he no longer believes in the concept of a "first team", rather in a group with largely equal (and high) ability, so that "somebody coming in can do as good a job as the person resting". That Continental notion is gaining ground, especially among clubs with eater commitments than just the Premiership. Ferguson, having pioneered the idea of fielding a completely different team in an irrelevant competi-

CHELSEA

2nd XI

23 Dimitri Kharin

Dan Perrescu

12 Michael Duberry

29 Andy Myers

28 Jody Morris

22 Mark Nicholls

21 Bernard Lambourds

Bjarne Goldback

Eddie Newton

Gianluca Vialli

19 Tore Andre Flo

Cup games in March, at a time when more than half of the other quarter-finalists are refreshed by an official winter

Even those who prefer the British notion of finding a best side and sticking to it have to acknowledge the need for replacements due to injuries and the vastly increased number of suspensions. Next season, with the Champions' League expanded to 32 clubs, that need will be greater than ever.

ARSENAL

2nd XI

13 Alex Manninge

7 Nelson Vivas

5 Steve Bould

20 Matthew Upson

22 David Grondin

29 Paolo Vernazza

16 Stephen Hughes

8 Fredrik Ljungberg

12 Christopher Wret

in February.

ward to it."

However, the Nigerian in-

ternational missed both of

those games through injury

and is determined to fulfil a

personal goal in tonight's fix-

ture. He said: "It will be a big

day for me because United

have been a team that I have

always dreamed of playing

against, so I'm looking for-

ing contest between two teams

with in-form strikers and ques-

tion marks still remaining over

their defences, and there is a fe-

in prospect between Dennis

cember, but if Chelsea can

emerge from their two games

against United this month with

their growing reputation un-

tarnished they will at last have

earned the right to be taken se-

Wise and Roy Keane.

rocious central midfield battle

Titles are never won in De-

It promises to be a fascinat-

19 Rémi Garde

tween now and the European gauged by looking along the line would give most Premiership sist claiming: "We have young of substitutes sitting by the dug-out. At Chelsea or United. as the lists below show, that line When Arsenal attempted is often sufficiently impressive to match their reserves to put opponents at a psychological disadvantage from the start. How many times have

managers of lesser clubs been heard to say: "I looked at their subs' bench and it was frightening"? United's will certainly be the only one with three England squad members on it (Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and Teddy Sheringham), plus a couple of time - and after they had

Mark Bosnich

Steve Watson

4 Gareth Southpate

15 Gareth Barry

5 Ugo Ehiogu

3 Alan Wright

17 Lee Hendrie

10 Paul Merson

9 Stan Collymore

7 Ian Taylor

14 Dion Dublin

1st XI

games, and seven for Euro- (United lost 4-0) and being tion like the League Cup, said So it could be argued that on Scandinavian or Dutch in- achieved a typically defiant pean competition (and how forced to use Graham Rix, aged last week that he will allow his any given match day, the ternationals as well. The win away to Panathinaikos long before that becomes 11, as almost 37, in the Cup-Winners' key players matches off be- strength of a club can best be Chelsea "second XI" lists week, Wenger could not reteams a decent game and beat a high proportion of them.

> against Chelsea's in a Worthington Cup tie recently, they received a nasty shock, now commemorated by T-shirts on sale in Fulham Broadway, with the figures 5-0 writ large. There is some young talent in the Arsenal shadow squad - as there needs to be, since some of the seniors are on borrowed

ASTON VILLA

2nd XI

13 Michael Oakes

20 Riccardo Scimeca

18 Fablo Ferraresi

23 David Hughes

11 Alan Thompson

16 Simon Grayson

21 Darren Byfield

13 Julian Joachim

22 Darius Vassell

8 Mark Draper

2 Gary Charles

players who are better than many people thought. The nucleus of the next generation is there." But the next generation was of no help in other Champions' League matches,

when the first team was so badly depleted. Villa, to be fair, started Lieir development some way behind the other three clubs, their prime concern when Gregory took over 10 short months ago being to stay out of the Nationwide League. The new manager quickly recognised the need to strengthen his squad and in buying Dion Dublin, Paul Merson, Alan Thompson and Steve Watson has improved not only his firstchoice team, but given a more

formidable look to his subs' bench too. Other clubs are belated; following suit, some - Blackburn, Leeds, Tottenham and Liverpool for instance - finding there is more money available to them than there is quality in the marketplace. In the meantime, few are betting against United and Chelsea

Yorke fit as United reach for the stars

to return for Manchester United as they bid to go back to the top of the Premiership against Chelsea at Old Trafford tonight. To do so they must overcome the Chelsea jinx - the visitors have lost on only two of their last 23 visits, Indeed, United have won only one of their last nine home encounters with

Chelsea. The record books show that Chelsea have registered 10 victories and 11 draws in those 23 matches, including two wins and three draws in the five games since their last defeat a 3-1 reverse in April 1993.

However, Chelsea face the ultimate test of their resurgence in what should prove a defining game in the title con-

having recorded seven wins and eight draws in the league since they lost to Coventry on the opening day of the season, so Yorke's recovery is great news for the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson.

BY DAVID ANDERSON

standing form for United since his August move from Aston Villa and has scored 12 goals in 20 appearances, missed his first match last Saturday when a thigh strain ruled him out of the 2-2 draw at Tottenham.

Ferguson said yesterday: Dwight Yorke got a bit of a knock against Bayern Munich last week so we left him out on Saturday. Denis Irwin missed the game and Paul Scholes had a little bit of flu, but they are all fit and I have had a full squad

"The only one who missed training was Jaap Stam, who had a little bit of a shin injury, but he will be OK. All I have to do is pick the right team."

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is likely to be the striker to make way for Yorke even though he scored both United goals against Tottenham.

Ferguson said of tonight's for us to go top and it's going as solid at the back this season

very good form this year and they have got a consistency about them which maybe Chelsea teams have lacked in the past."

Chelsea, who currently occupy fourth place, will be without their influential defender Franck Leboeuf due to sus-



pension. The loss of Leboeuf, who sits on the sidelines after collecting five yellow cards, will be keenly felt because he has struck up a formidable partnership at the heart of a once-fallible defence with his fellow World Cup winner Mar-

cel Desailly. Michael Duberry is likely to deputise for Leboeuf, but the game: "There's a good chance Blues have never looked quite

43

to be a terrific match against when Desailly has been ab-Chelsea. They have been in sent or pushed forward into central midfield.

At least Desailly, like several of his team-mates, will be fully rested for tonight's game after being left out of Saturday's 2-2 draw at Derby following the exertions of gaining an injury-time 2-1 win over Aston Villa last week.

Chelsea's rotation policy was again widely criticised at the weekend when the manager, Gianluca Vialli, made six changes to his starting line-up and Derby secured a late equaliser.

However, it means that Desailly, Albert Ferrer, Roberto Di Matteo and Celestine Babayaro, as well as Vialli, will have benefited from the extra recuperation time. The critics should also con-

sider that United employ a sim-

ilar policy and dropped two

points late on at Tottenham after leaving out Irwin, Scholes. Yorke and Andy Cole from their starting line-up. Babayaro said: "Several of

Derby game including myself, on the team, who were also so I'm feeling fresh. beaten 1-0 in the Premiership by United at Stamford Bridge

"The United game is vital because everybody knows what they are capable of doing and hopefully we'll go out there and show that Chelsea are a team that everyone has to be scared of."

Chelsea's improved consistency this season makes them serious title contenders - apart from Coventry their only other defeat came in the Worthington Cup quarter-final at Wimble-However, Chelsea will want

to forget the crushing 5-3 defeat by United in the FA Cup third round at Stamford Bridge last January. United were simply devas-

tating as they cruised into a 5-0 lead before conceding three late goals, and the result was a hammer blow to Chelsea's morale and they did well to recover and win the Coca-Cola Cup and the Cup-Winners'

Babayaro admitted that the

Sexton praises the players got rested for the FA Cup result had a big effect the new Chelsea

THE FORMER Cheisea and 1968 when Cheisea over Manchester United manager, Dave Sexton, who had four wins and three draws from his seven trips to Old Trafford with the London club, feels playing at the stadium suits their style.

He believes Chelsea's attacking approach is one reason for their good record. "Tradi-tionally, Old Trafford has been a happy hunting ground for Chelsea," he said.

"I don't know why, but it could be that Chelsea have always had a good attack. Also, everyone raises their game for matches at Old Trafford because it's a bit like going to Wembley. It lifts players and makes them more determined to excel," Sexton said.

"I think Chelsea, despite all their ups and downs, have always had the type of players who relish the opportunity of playing on a great stage."

Sexton's most memorable Old Trafford win came in August whelmed the then European champions. "They had George Best and the rest of them playing, but we won 4-0," he said.

Chelsea are emerging as genuine title contenders and have not lost in the Premiership since the opening day of the season - to Coventry.

Sexton is impressed by how their manager, Gianluca Vialli, has carried on the work of Rund Gullit, now with Newcastle. He believes they have finally found

the right consistency. "If you are going to do well in the League you have to be consistent, and Cheisea have found that. They have silenced a few of their critics with this long unbeaten run.

"What they need to do now is to win more games and to keep scoring regularly if they want to be serious about ning. Despite their record at Old Trafford, though, it will still be very daunting for them."

- Prime :

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gigger commutation; spins The Torse of INDEPENDENT,

Ashes fiasco: Former chairman attacks falling standards as tourists prove they are products of second-class system

England are 'awful' says Illingworth

RAY ILLINGWORTH yesterday BY CHRIS SHAW launched a stinging attack on England's Ashes flops after yesterday's third Test defeat in

Illingworth, a former chairman of selectors who also led England to Ashes success as captain in 1970, suggested that nowhere near as good as they too much was being spent on the team for too little reward.

Illingworth said: "It was awful - I can't say any more than that. I am glad I am out of it. I think we got it wrong with the side we put out by playing four bowlers in 40-50 degree heat. But you can pull apart the state of the Test side.

"We can't turn things ro

For me, what has to be looked at is the money spent on the team. We have more coaches, managers, physios and even more hangers-on than ever, but the results are just as bad. What depresses me most is not the fact that England lose in Australia, but that they are lying down and dying. We are getting blown away.'

Illingworth is at least encouraged that the first-class counties have grasped the nettle of two divisions in the championship for 2000 but fears the

ngland have gone 11 years and five series since Mike Gatting last

returned from Australia having led them to an Ashes victory. Below

Old Trafford

Trent Bridge

Brisbane

Melbourne

Trent Bridge

Headingley

The Oval

Brisbane

Edgbaston

Lord's

The Oval

innovation is being established

24 years too late. "The problem goes right through the game. At league level, standards are not as good as they were 20 years ago and

were 30 years ago. But the England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive. Tim Lamb, warned against a mood of doom and gloom, stressing that cricket's hierarchy had been putting forward radical proposals to improve

We can't turn things round overnight," he said. "Australia have a culture of excellence at school, grade and state level, They are the top team in the world and we should never forget they are a very fine, very talented side.

"Of course we want to raise the standard of cricket here and there is a unity of purpose throughout the whole game. But I don't want to be a hostage

to fortune. It will take time." The chairman of selectors. David Graveney, believes England's failed Ashes campaign

Aus won by 55 runs

Aus won by 210 runs

Aus won by 6 wkts

Aus won by 9 wkts

Aus won by 10 wkts

Aus won by 8 wkrs

Aus won by 9 wkts Aus won by 179 runs

Aus won by 8 wkts

Eng won by 16? runs

Aus won by 184 runs

Aus won by 295 runs

Eng won by 106 runs

Aus won by 329 runs

Aus won by 268 runs

Aus won by 264 runs

Eng won by 19 runs

Aus won by 7 wkts

Aus won by 205 runs

Aus won by inns & 61 runs

Eng won by 9 wkts

Aus won by inns & 148 runs

Drawn

Drawn

on by inns & 180 runs

It could be said we were slightly unfortunate to lose the toss in Adelaide but we have to face the facts that we have underperformed at national level for quite a few years.

"If you have something that has not been good for a while, IT IS the system of English you have to take it apart and put

The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, also reacted phlegmatically, saying. "It is important to do well at sport but remember it is only a sport that we are talking about, it is not as if some-

the worst tail in the world. Acare top with 1,058 points.

The ineptitude of England's bowlers is also put into perspective by the fact that Australia's tail-enders are only eighth in the list on 395 points. The former Sussex and Australian Test player Tony Dodemaide will take over as MCC's head of cricket in February, having been MCC marketing manager for five years.

began to hit problems in the first Test after the Australians were let off the hook. Alan Mullally's failure to run out Steve Waugh on the first day of the series is now seen as a turning point by Graveney.

"Nobody does that on purpose but there is no point in fudging the issue. Mistakes have been made and a team like Australia will punish you if you make them," Graveney said.

"We have to show character in the final Tests and the oneday matches and put the recent disappointments behind us.

"It is hard enough losing, but losing to Australia for an English cricketer is a particularly galling experience. It is the job of management to pick the players up," he added.

English cricket should take a cool and calm view, according to the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord

"It is unfortunate and we are very disappointed, particularly after the series against South Africa last summer, but there will be no call from us for any resignations," he said.

"It is just one of those things.

it together again.

one has declared war on us."

Meanwhile, England have cording to the ratings released yesterday by Pricewaterhouse land struggle so desperately Coopers, England are bottom of even to compete with Australia the nine Test-playing nations on over the last month. The bats-288 points, compared with South men have all shown - except. Africa, whose No 8-11 batsmen



Mark Ramprakash is bowled by Damien Fleming for 57 during England's second innings collapse in Adelaide yesterday

Laughing stock of the world

cricket which must stand convicted quite as much as its inadequate representatives in Australia. If it had not been for that storm in Brisbane, England would now be three matches down. As it is, they are two down with the Ashes firmly in Australia's keeping and with nowhere to hide.

It has, in all honesty, been embarrassing to watch Eng-John Crawley, whose present plight is too awful for words that the art of batting is not completely dead in England.

Mark Ramprakash has fought bravely throughout and now badly needs another hundred to add to the one he scored in Barbados last March. The only hundred so far has been made by Mark Butcher, in Brisbane, but now he is again as badly out of sorts as he was

ers have all dipped into the 40s and 50s and 60s.

They have done the hard work, but just as they have been starting to play pretty well, they have got themselves out. Batsmen who, at other times, have found it easy enough to go on to a hundred and beyond, have suddenly forgotten how to do it any longer.

This is a reflection of two things. First, Australia are a most formidable side: there are no weak links, they are captained most capably and, man for man, appear far tougher and more battle-hardened than England. They also have a remarkable self-belief which is called confidence and is the sec-

Australia are used to winning, England are not. Their recent victory over South Africa, which owed a huge amount to questionable umpiring, has fore no self-belief. It is the been shown up for what it was. classic Catch-22 situation be-Some of the gloss was imme-



DLUTELD IN ADELAIDE

diately removed from it by the walloping England were given by Sri Lanka. Now, it can be seen as a mirage.

England have fallen back all too easily into the habit of losing and are playing the untidy cricket which is almost always the hallmark of sides which have no confidence and therecause a side needs confidence

winning to gain confidence. Sadly, there do not seem to be the individuals capable of producing a match-winning performance on their own

to start winning and to start

which would lift the side and change the gloomy course of this series. Nasser Hussain might just play this sort of innings, and in the bowling department Alex Tudor has as much of a chance as anyone if he can get another game. How England should regret not playing him at the Adelaide

When the pressure is on, England cannot handle it. which the coach, David Lloyd, apparently regarded as an unforgivably negative question when asked the other night why this might be so. If those in authority are not prepared to face up to the real world, one wonders how things will ever get better.

Pious hopes for the future are all very well, but this Eng-

land tour of Australia has gone past this point. The embarrassing truth is that the Australian public, to say nothing of the hundreds of England supporters out here, have been badly let down, not to say insulted, by the cricket England have been playing.

Ian Chappell wrote the other day that England were no longer worth a five-match series in Australia and, on this evidence, it is impossible to argue. Twelve thousand miles away in England, it may not be so easy to realise the laughing stock that English cricket has become in Australia, and that is even before seeing the absurd efforts of England's tail-enders trying to play out even one single over.

On this last day at the Adelaide Oval, I found myself wondering if I would ever again see England win back the Ashes. The gulf between England and Australia cricket has become

Australia innovate as their old adversary disintegrates

says the Sydney Morning Herald, its cricket writers deprived - again - of the opportunity to report on a meaningful Ashes Test on their home ground. "Let our blokes hit the beaches, let their blokes go home for Chrissy." Until England can field a radically improved side, "the Ashes should be reduced to three Tests, so at least there could only be one dead match,

It is an extreme view, but many a media head here has been shaken sadly at the re-

sed state of their old adver-ary. Not all of it sentimental, of course - Channel Nine doing its utmost to sell the Ashes as the summer's top sporting spectacle, has strained the ingenuity of its promotions department as the remaining prospect of a genuine contest fizzled out.

For the Perth Test, the on-air trail featured a row of Barmy Australia reckon taxpayers Army foot-soldiers, complete here have shelled out as much with Union Jack boxer shorts, cheering on their team only to be silenced as a row of Aussies inserted a cricket ball in each rashly opened mouth. By the build-up to Adelaide, however, the draw card of competition had given way to spectacle this was bound to be the scene of "some great batting," the voice-over promised, after the fast bowler's wicket" of the

WAA. Bhlike the last Ashes series here, Australia has seen enough to be convinced of the English players' commitment. ships.

After another Ashes defeat, England's commitment to sport is now being doubted. By Jake Lynch in Sydney

"The Poms are trying," The Australian said. "They train with effort and enthusiasm." It is England's cricketing commitment that is in doubt. "Something serious must be done or soccer will squeeze it into a curious but largely irrelevant sideshow," the paper

A lack of commitment to sport is not a charge anyone could level at Australia. Just as Alec Stewart was musing in Adelaide on the relative improvement of the rest of the cricketing world, so local researchers were releasing the findings of a study measuring just how far that commitment goes. The University of South as Aus\$50m - about £18m - for each gold medal won by their sports stars at the last five

Olympic Games. One of the best home prospects for gold at the Sydney Olympiad in the year 2000, the 400 metre athlete Cathy Freeman, developed her talent at the Victoria Institute of Sport in Melbourne. Generously statefunded, it also boasts a highly impressive squad of young cricketers, developed with great attention to detail during their one or two-year scholar-

The VIS cricket coach, Neil Buszard, has the budget to experiment with new innovations

like, for instance, a two-way radio system which allows touchline coaching during practice games. On one end, a small receiver is hooked on to the batsman's waistband with an earpiece taped to his neck. On the other, the coach can offer advice on particular flaws, or encouragement when he sees something good, as it happens.

Buszard and his colleagues have even set up transmitters working on the same principle to monitor the batsman's heart rate during a match situation, so he can put them through extra drills to reproduce the same level of bodily activity when his young charges are practising in the nets. He told the Independent: "The beauty is that we're not just standing still, and expecting cricket to stay where it was 10 years ago. We're trying to take it into the next millennium." Unless England are very careful, by the time they have

moved further on. Sheltering from one of Melbourne's seasonal downpours, Buszard lobs practice balls to his most promising young pupil, the Australia Under-19 "There's very tough competi- experience hoping to impress managing just six wickets.

caught up, the Aussies will have

six batting club spots up for grabs in the whole of Australia," Klinger says. "Whatever you can do to get an advantage over the next guy. that's the key. Working hard on your fitness, skill, training four or five times a week.' The structure of the game

here, with State sides vying for the highly competitive Sheffield Shield offering a middle tier of ability between Test and English county level, has manifold advantages. The sincerest English tribute to their all-conquering hosts is the ECB's belated embrace of a divisional structure, with the strongest teams no longer guaranteed easy fixtures against the weakest, to go with its own gleaming new academy.

The restricted number of opportunities at the higher levels, with the academy structure. certainly leads to an emphasis on technique in developing the best young players, not necessarily winning every game as they make their way up. "We teach the process. Get the process right, and hopefully, along the way, that win will come," Buszard says.

Along the way for England. the Prime Minister's XI at Canberra, then Saturday's fourdayer against an Australian XI at Hobart. The line-up for that game supports Klinger's observations about the competition for places, with batsmen Darren Lehmann and Greg talent Michael Klinger. Blewett among those with Test burning from shoulder surgery,



Damien Fleming (left), Colin Miller and Glenn McGrath celebrate victory Reuters

Warne to delay Ashes comeback

SHANE WARNE looks increasingly unlikely to play in the fourth Ashes Test against England in Melbourne on 26 December because he does not feel he will be back at his best. "The Boxing Day aim might

have been unrealistic," the legspinner said following Australia's victory in the Adelaide Test that kept the Ashes Down Under for the sixth successive occasion. Melbourne had been Warne's aim but he has struggled in his three Sheffield Shield appearances since re-

In his last game for Victoria, against Queensland, Warne took one wicket and was disappointed with his second innings performance in particular. He has another Shield match, against New South Wales on Saturday, in which he can press his claims for a recall.

Warne also said he is ready to appear in front of a Pakistan inquiry into match-fixing if requested to by the Australian Cricket Board. "That's probably the way to go," Warne said yesterday. "I think the thing that has most disappointed me is the

match-fixing, which is two completely separate issues." Warne and Mark Waugh admitted taking money from a bookmaker to provide pitch and weather information during Australia's 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

But Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said Waugh and Warne are unlikely to give evidence. "I will be very surprised if they go, after what happened in Pakistan last time." Taylor said. "When Mark Waugh and I were summoned to the court [during Australia's Pakistan tour in October] we were given various aslink between what we did and surances that did not happen."

W Indies go from 'disaster to disaster'

THE MANAGER of the West Indies, Clive Lloyd, claimed injuries, illness and attitude problems are to blame for the tourists' dismal showings in

After seven matches on their tour, the West Indies have yet to register a win, even in oneday games against invitation teams, and trail South Africa 2-0 in the five-Test series.

Lloyd, who captained the West Indies during their most successful era in the 1970s and 1980s, said: "We seem to be stumbling from one disaster to another.

He said the injuries to key players Jimmy Adams and Dinanath Ramnarine and the glandular fever which affected opening batsman Philo Wallace had also been big blows.

"We are disappointed," Lloyd. admitted in Durban yesterday. "We have to try to rectify the situation." Lloyd said the disasters had started with the threatened strike by players which delayed the beginning of the tour.

"We didn't start right. We have had problems with injuries and illness and our batsmen have not shown the right

sort of attitude," he said. The West Indies play a Natal XI in an Asian township outside Durban, in a one-day game today, and a four-day match against South Africa A in Pietermaritzburg starting on in Durban on Boxing Day.

WHEN BJORN Gjelsten, the

Wimbledon FC director and

homecoming. "As I walked into

my house the first thing I came

across was a letter from my bank

manager informing me that,

once again, I was overdrawn,"

Curtis says, with a wry smile.

The night he won with Gjelsten in Dubai was no better either. "I wasn't too well," he recalls. "I'd

just achieved a sporting first and, by way of celebrating, I spent

four hours on the toilet. It wasn't

exactly a giggle."

It may not be the best-known

fact in Britain right now, but the

34-year-old from Hythe, on the

Solent, has just become the first

man in offshore powerboat rac-

ing to be crowned world cham-

pion for the third time. In

countries such as Italy and

France, the Middle East and, in-

deed, Norway, this is a very big

deal. In Britain, Curtis is better

CHRONI

BANGOR

and the star for · - March 3

Also, disposing of the present management structure is absolutely necessary. England have suffered an array of Test defeats over a decade and nothing has been done to improve the situation. All we have had are excuses as to why the performances are so poor. I wonder what excuse David Lloyd will have up his sleeve after this latest

A new positive-thinking management system is needed to implement the right attitudes. Until the basics are sorted out ,England will continue to suffer defeats. It is a very unfortunate situation for an England supporter. Dyce, Aberdeen

Captaincy flaws

Sir: The Australian cricket team has the benefit of a very

to the edge A Briton who was once declared dead has just become the first offshore powerboat racer to win three world championships. By Ian Stafford

now. He'll probably get the Norwegian equivalent of the OBE.

riding close

Curtis happy

I think people only know of me part-owner who won his first through a few headlines I've Class One world offshore powermade, and those rarely appear boat championship last week, returned home to Norway he was in the back pages." Indeed not. In 1990 Curtis was fèted as a national hero. His face adorned the front pages of the hailed a hero when he dived benewspapers, and his words were neath the choppy waves of the heard on television screens and Mediterranean in a brave but rain attempt to save the life of radio sets. his fellow racer, Stephano Casir-His partner, Britain's Steve aghi, the husband of Princess Curtis, had a somewhat different

Caroline of Monaco. In 1993 he was declared dead when his powerboat broke up



known for his daredevil feats. in Italian waters spitting Curtis, to use the man's own rather than for his sporting phrase, "out into the sea like a "I wouldn't mind a little more melon seed". He managed to swim ashore to a pasta bar, fame and wealth," he admits where the genial host offered when we met the day after his him food and copious amounts triumphant return to his bank manager's correspondence. of wine. Meanwhile a rescue "Bjorn's the best thing since team, in failing to find a body, sliced bread in Norway right assumed the worst.

fine captain. Mark Taylor is an

excellent leader and has cre-

ated a highly disciplined and

motivated squad of cricketers

with a wonderful team spirit.

the England team has been

very badly led. Under Michael

Atherton, they were a scruffy,

In contrast, in recent years

staring death in the face? "It's just the thrill of racing, and the competition," Curtis explains. "A powerboat is an incredible piece of machinery, and when you're racing close to 160 mph on a forever changing surface such as the sea you're constantly living life close to the edge.

"When you're racing it requires 100 per cent concentration. It's like a twilight zone you enter, when everything else apart from racing leaves your mind. You merge with the boat and almost become one entity. I become attentive, anticipatory, and also fearful, of losing as much as of the danger. Believe me, powerboat racing is like a drug to me." Maybe, but doesn't he spend

a few moments worrying over how his personal cards are dealt? "No," he says. "Not really. I'm a very positive person. I think you have to be. When I have a big accident I think: 'Good, that's my big accident out of the way for another three years.' I know some people may think I have some kind of death wish. I'd accept I've been hucky on occasions, and eight of my close friends in the sport have been killed. But I argue that I have a life wish. I don't want to be a spectator, I want to be a player." Nobody can deny that Steve

Curtis is a player. His hat-trick of world titles is a first in his sport, but not his personal choice in the achievement stakes. "Winning my first title back in 1985 meant more to me



because I became the first Briton to do so," he explains. "Someone, one day, will win four world titles, and then five. Maybe it will be me. But nobody can ever take away the fact that I was the first Brit to pull it off." Curtis and Gjelsten won this

year's world championships at a canter, confirming their status in the penultimate race of the season in Dubai, and then winning the final grand prix, also in Dubai, for good measure. It rounded off a highly successful eight-race season for Gjelsten's boat, The Spirit of

past year the world's best Class either," Curtis says. "But we

One teams have raced around the world circuit in places as diverse as St Petersburg and Istanbul. Norway and Rome. Guernsey and, indeed, Dubai. The two-man crews, consisting of a driver who steers, and a throttleman who powers and controls the boat, sit in an enclosed canopy based on F16 fighter cockpits. Twelve, 4.5 tonne boats began the campaign, but only 11 finished. One sank, while another, which also

The Spirit of Norway, however, avoided all the obstacles. We didn't have the quickest During the course of the boat, nor the most powerful one

had great reliability and Bjorn drove extremely well. Our experience helped, and we limited our mistakes. Everything slotted into place, and it was our consistency that won the title."

And what of Curtis, recognised to be the world's best throttle man? "I adjust the speed and turn the boat," he explains. "While it is the job of the driver to drive and navigate, making sure that the boat travels the shortest distance, I monitor the gauges. It's a team sport, and we both have to work in full unison, especially these days, when the sport has become so much more profes-

Gone are the days, then, when powerboat racing was just the hobby of a few rich, playboys. According to Curtis, the glamourous image is now a distant memory. "It's true that the

teams have a great deal of money pumped into them. The Royal family in Dubai fund their own teams, and Bjorn financed most of our boat this year, although next year we expect to have full sponsorship. But the days of the fantastic parties and good life are over. The teams today are out there to win. The millionaire backers are professionals who want to be winners, and they don't see their boats as merely toys any more."

So what now for our triple world champion? Will he continue to ride his luck and pit his considerable skills against both the opposition in the boats and the unpredictability of the sea? 'I can't see me stopping just

. Table 175.

Sep Fire

yet," he says, as he prepares to leave again for the Dusselde I'm in that boat racing. I've been doing it for God knows how many years now, but I still have the enthusiasm of a

He smiles, a self-conscious confession that soon dominates his face. "Besides," he adds. "What else would I do with

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Bring Test team home now

Sir: Another humiliating, embarrassing, degrading and mortifying Test match defeat by England. As predicted, England have lost a sixth consecutive Ashes series. To avoid further annihila-

led by a sadly inept captain, as tion, Alec Stewart and his his record shows. men should pack their bags It begins to look as if very and return home immediately. little has changed, and that With the series safely in Aus-Alec Stewart's appointment tralia's hands again, there is has something to do with it no point taking part any furbeing "Buggins' turn". Sloppy ther. It will be a waste of time batting and fielding has much and money, especially for the to do with slack captaincy and paying spectator to watch Tim Lamb and the rest of the one-sided matches over and England and Wales Cricket over again. The Australians Board should bear this in yet again have shown how mind if they really intend to superior their players are in bring about any serious imability and technique. provement in English cricket.

The England and Wales There may be something to Cricket Board should start inbe said for the creation of two troducing the basics of the divisions, but the key to it all game to schools and start is good and effective captaincy both on and off the field. If this them young. The current players lack the basic ability aspect is neglected, there is to compete at Test level very little hope for the future of the game in this country. E H SMITH

Cheadle, Cheshire The records show very clearly The height of hypocrisy Sir: I note with interest the recent comments attributed to Steve Stone regarding his future at Nottingham Forest Football Club.

Stone, with perfect timing. has decided to reveal he will quit the club if they are relegated this season. Hardly a morale booster for Forest's players and fans. Can this be the same Steve Stone who has been one of Pierre van Hoojdonk's most vociferous critics up to this point? Although their methods dif-

are the problem

ing-rooms, the two players should share the same peg. NIALL LOVEJOY Shenley Brook End, Bucks

fer, their agenda is the same:

Self before team. Far from

changing in separate dress-

CATTERICK

1.00 River Don 1.30 Flat Top 2.00 Fils De Cres-3.30 Straffan Gold

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). ■ Left-hand course, undutating and sharp. Run-in 240yds.
■ Course is NW of town on A8136. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Cub £11; Tattersals £7; Course £2.50 (under 16s free into all enclosures), CAR PARK: Reserved

area £2, remainder free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 23-95 (242%). M Hammond 15-122 (123%). Mrs S Smith 12-84 (143%), G M Moore III LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 26-84 (31%), R Garritty 13-71

(183%), A S Smith 12-85 (141%), B Storey 12-138 (8.8%).

FAVOURITES: 116 wins in 327 races (355%).

LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Damien's Choice (330) has been

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Commanche Trix (230), Bellad Minstrei (300), Prolific Agency (330).

1.00 HELISTER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds unshaven, indisciplined rabble

BETTING: 11-10 River Don, 5-2 Scotton Green, 8-1 Bold Action, 10-1 Mis-ter Moddypawn, Joe Shaw, 16-1 Belle Busit, Cassy Cassy, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT ing novice chase which can reasonably safely be

mainly due to the improvement he showed last season and

1.30 CATTERICK CLUB AMATEURS HAND-ICAP HURDLE (F) 52,500 added 2m 3f

-9 declared -

FORM VERDICT

There are many more negatives than positives about these rutners but, in the belief that an extended 2m5f was beyond her last time, MAREMIMA is taken to beat Ring Of Vision.

sank, was replaced.

Minimum weight: Tive handisep weights: Squints Occasion, Saleonacier Set St. BETTING: 7-2 Flat Top, 5-1 Superhoo, 6-1 Ring Of Vision, Marenma, 13-2 ibn Masirah, 7-1 Crabble's Pride, 8-1 En-Jey-Bee, 10-1 others

2.00 CHRISTMAS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 3f 04-1FE HEAVY HUSTLER (27) J H Johnson 7 2 0 ... C McConnack (5)

ons Bay is feared most in an open race

The signs are that James Adam's fearn is emerging from a quest spell, and FILS DE CRESSON ran well enough at Ayr last month to suggest he will be hard to beat. That form stands up, and the drop back in trip will suit the eight-year-old. Drag-

2.30 RAFFYARD HOUSE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,000 added 2m 3f

4824 BARLEY MEADON (12) R Ford 6 11 5 Horrocks (5)

FORM VERDICT

A three-horse race on paper. Barley Meadow has done very little wrong of late, but meets OVERSMAN on 19th worse larms than in a handicap. The latter is on the decline, but may still be good enough to hold his own at this level. Charmon of Amount is easily the pick of the others, but a slow time makes her lat-

3.00 GARTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E)

640/P- FOX SPARRIOW (237) (CD) 8 Mactaggart 8 10 12 ... 8 Store

nva: evens Savau musicre, 7-4 saly money, 10-1 re obes, Queens Brigade, 16-1 Radacpous, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

This looks an obvious opportunity for BALLAD MINSTRIEL to get off the mark over fences. He did nothing wrong at his first attempt, and first-time blinkers strike the only discordant note. Silly Money is capable of exposing any flaw in the favourite.

3.30 HUTTON WANDESLEY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (F) £2,500 addet; ?m

FORM VERDICT

Not much to go on, and hard to make a case for many. Ru ten Aspect and Straffan Gold have laken a considerable hive in the weights, and DE ORALIE's a token selection. Jona liey looks the pick of the others, but seems to have los

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

12.45 Catchment 1.15 Soaked 1.50 Yanomami 2.20 Indian Blaze 2.50 Peruvian Star 3.20 The Last Word 3.50 Royal Roulette 4.20 Faym

STALLS: 7f & 1m6f - outside; rest - stade DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station Im. ADMISSION: Cub 5:5; Tatlarsalls 58 (OAP Diamond Cub 54); Viewing Restaurent 52990 including meal. CAR PARK: free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollingboad 75-683 (108%), M Johnaton 61-279 (219%), 1 Berry 51-354 (144%), P Evers 43-440 (92%), ELEADENG JOCKEYS J Wester 56-31 (212%), S Sandars 49-368 (33%), Dean McKeown 38-372 (122%), G Duffield 36-234 (154%).

If FAVOURTIES: 454 wirs in 1429 races (318%).

If MKERETY ERST, TIME: Abuserant Asserted (154%). BLINKERIED FIRST TIME: Abusanirah (visored, 150), Campari (2.20), Little Boy Blue (3.20), Beby Spice, Shelyah (4.20).

12.45 CUCKMERE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,000 added 1m 6f 166yds

Aliminusu: 7st 10th. True weights: Royal Census 7st 7th. April Spirt 7st 0th. BETTING: 5-4 Il Princips, 9-2 Catchaned, 6-1 Hilliath, 8-1 Arctic Thum-der, 10-1 Nikita's Star, General Glow, 12-1 Caleridge, 25-1 others FORM VERDICT

Only two ment consideration and IL PRINCIPE is taken to outstay Catchment who looked a bit rejuctant to put his head in front last time. 1.15 TRENT APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(CLASS G) \$2,500 added 5f

FORM VERDICT

There will be plenty of cheering if either Scaked or Sihefi breaks the 20th-century record for the number of handicap wins in a season, but the in-form PRIDE OF BRIXTON may foil the

1.50 RIVER IDLE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

BETTING: 1-2 Dryad, 3-1 Yanomani Patriot, 25-1 Abusanirah, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

Impossible to oppose DRYAD who has been knocking on the door in madenc here and has been found a weak event to-2.20 BSS INDUSTRIAL HEATING HANDI-CAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,000 71

O 6 0 0 0

FORM VERDICT

There has to be a doubt about Acid Test repeating last week's Lingfield success back on today's different surface judged on his previous efforts on Pforesand, Indian Bitaze has run well when in the frame in 8f handicaps on his last two starts and has a decent chance over today's extra furiong. But it may be worth risking ROI DE DANSE who has tumbled 11th in two defeats on the AW and is taking on weaker opposition over what may be his ideal trip.

2.50 THAMES NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 2YO 7f

FORM VERDICT

The lop weight Peruvian Star could be anything, but he appears to have no easy task in trying to concede 21 to to the in-form DONE AND DUSTED who is well suited by today s

3.20 SEVERN SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 240 7f

11 declared = BETTING: 5-4 Miss Take, 4-1 Algue's Cavaller, 8-1 Pokes, 10-1 The Last Word, 12-1 Harquebusier, Skymistress, 14-1 Maid Flans, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

On lest Saturday's win hera, Miles Take stands out back at this lovel, but it is close that a mile suits her better than short-er and her overall record (she had been beaten in plating com-

pany on her six previous starts) is not inspiring given that she will be a short price here. Today's 71 may also be on the short side for Albina's Cavaller, so it may be worth taking a chance on HARQURBUSIER, who will be suited by this trip and whose turf form gives her a definite chance.

3.50 CUCKMERE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,000 added 1m 6f 166yds (DIV II) 23,UOU ROGER 7ITI OT TODYUS

20401 PARADES NAWY (14) (C D) C Egerton 9 00 LR Winston (8) 4 8

203015 ALDWYCH ARROW (42) M A Buckley 3 9 3 ... A Cubbare 2

4-6053 ROYAL ROULETTE (14) Mes B Sanders 4 9 1 ... A Cubbare 2

35020 MEPERAL PRINCE (15) S Woods 3 9 0 ... W Ryen 7

25000 MEW YORKER (14) M53 A Stolel 3 8 8 ... C Lowiner 5 V

05020 PERTEMPS MISSION (30) Pearce 4 8 5 ... R Price 8 V

05030 BLUE ANCHOR (J13) A Carrol 3 7 13 ... P M Quinn (7)

000050 TIGGY SILVANO (5) M OLETI 3 7 10 C Cogen (7) 3

- 8 declared -

- 8 dectared -Marinum weight 7st 1000 True handicap weight Tiggy Silvano 7st 2tb. BETTING: 2-1 Paradise Navy, 9-2 Royal Routette, 5-1 New Yorker, 6-1 Aldarych Arrow, 7-1 Perfompa Mission, 8-1 Imperial Prince, 10-1 Bise Anchor, 25-1 Tiggy Silvano

FORM VERDICT A weak staying handicup which should be ideal for PARADISE NAVY to complete his hat-trick. He can still race off a lower mark than on surf and is expected to confirm recent super-

4.20 BSS PIPELINE EQUIPMENT HANDI-CAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) \$3,000 added

71
1 02764D SALTY BEHAVIOUR (7) (D) P Exars 4 10 0 ... C Cogen (7) 7
2 6-3-03 Title OF NIGHT (11) (CD) J L Eyre 5 9 13 ... R Lappin 8
3 03-44 C. C-HARRY (20) (CD) R Hotinstead 4 9 10 ... W Ryan 11
4 050-031 FAYM (11) (CD) J Witarton 4 9 9 ... J P Spencer (3) 5
4060 HARLESTONE LANE (J13) D Buchell 39 8 ... S Drowne 12
5 30000 ADRIENALIN (5) T Cement 3 9 9 ... A POB (6) 4
8 005070 BABY SPICE (30) (CD) R J Houghton 3 9 4 ... A Cofficien 9 8
9 - 63560 CLASSIC COLOURS (6) G Yardey 5 9 2 ... V Skettery 3
0 03200 SHALYAN (4) N Litropolan 3 9 0 ... T G McLaughibor 2 B
10 002000 ITALIAN ROSE (11) A Carroll 3 8 13 ... M Tabbell 6
12 declared ... S Whitworth 1
12 declared ... S Whitworth 1
BETTING: 3-1 Kosevo, 9-2 Tamp 07 Night, 11-2 Faym, 6-1 Sakly Bahaylour, 7-1 C-Harry, 12-1 Harlestone Lane, Shahyah, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Kosevo may just struggle to get home over this top here and could well be collared close home by C-Harry and THIE OF NIGHT Preference of for the latter who has considered from all ling track and should be sharper than when behind Payor

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DEPENDENT

Pipe line flows for Johnson

THE FRENCH, unlike the soft hearts on this side of the Channel, do not tend to be overly sentimental about the brother horse. In fact, the strongest feeling they share about a fourlegged friend is when it is brought to them overcooked.

There is no mollycoddling either for the young steeplechaser in France, where the locals are less than squeamish about throwing their young produce over fences at a very early age. This system can pro-duce chasers brilliant at a stage unheard of in these islands, animals such as François Doumen's The Fellow, who was third in the King George VI Chase as a five-year-old. It can so lead to a stable visit from a Continental spotter working

for Martin Pipe. The pre-eminent jumps trainer has done good business in France over the years, most notably when the name on belonged to the champion jumps owner, David Johnson.

Already this season the partnership has won a Murphy's Gold Cup with the imported Cyfor Malta, and it may be that this weekend they attempt to lift another worthwhile prize, Ascot's Betterware Cup, with the ex-French Tamarindo. The latter was successful at Chelegham last Friday. "It might ne a bit quick for him but, with the greatest respect in the world, it doesn't look a great entries for the Yule slog around

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

race," Johnson said yesterday. "We will probably leave it until Friday and see how he is.

"I was very pleased with him last time because you could argue that the form of his previous win at Cheltenham didn't add up to much. It was an amateurs' race and we had the

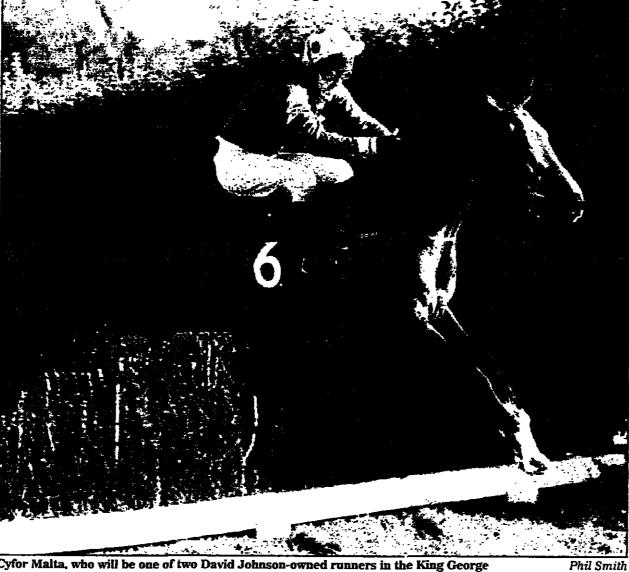
RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Superhoo (Catterick 1.30) NB: The Brewmaster (Bangor 12.40)

best jockey, so it could have been that we were flattered. "But Friday's race was different. He had a Gold Cup winner and some other good horses behind and the race wouldn't

have looked out of place at the

Cheltenham Festival." Tamarindo also benefited the bottom of the cheque has from the best jockey at Prestbury Park. It was a hare-andtortoise performance from Tony McCoy, who accomplished his version of leaning on a tree trunk smoking a cigarette when his mount came to a virtual standstill after the last. The champion jockey then diverted from the fable script by getting

> back into the race in time. It is an odd occasion when Pipe does not win the Welsh National these days and Tamarindo is among his many



Cyfor Malta, who will be one of two David Johnson-owned runners in the King George

Chepstow on 28 December. By then, we will know if Cyfor Malta is up to taking on the best at level weights in the King

After his Murphy's Gold Cup success the gelding missed the doubly niggling problem: niggly for the horse himself and nigcould not bring himself to identhe minor injury. "You know what Martin's like, he likes to keep things to himself," Johnson said. "But the horse is over

his setback and he's fine now.

"He will go for the King George because there is nothing else unless we ask him to give 2st to everything and drag nimself round in a handicap.

"Challenger Du Luc will run in the race and I'd be quite Tripleprint Gold Cup with a happy if he finishes in the same place as last year [when runner-up to See More Business]. gly for media men as Pipe But, as we all know, you can never tell with him. He's neartify publicly exactly what was ly nine now and we're nowhere nearer getting to the bottom of what goes on in his head."

ning chaser in France, at an age Cyfor Malta won two races over fences in the mud at Auwhen others are trying to win teuil as a young horse and Flat Classics. Both he and

jumps supremely. A recent Cyfor Malta are among the rule-change to allow six-yearnew breed of chasers who seem olds to run in the Grand Nato be elbowing rather rudely tional was almost specifically past the established names of designed for his benefit followthe winter sport. ing the five-year-old's success "Some of these older horses

over the green mountains in have had their time and now last season's John Hughes Trowe're seeing a new wave comphy. He is favourite for Aintree ing through." Johnson said. 1999 but do not back him. He is "It's a bit like golfers playing unlikely to run. "The Gold Cup each other, in that a youngster has always been his main tarimproving his handicap usualget," Johnson said. "There are ly beats the older man on the way down." Tamarindo, too, was a win-

It is something of a surprise that David Johnson understands anything to do with the

Fallon joins **Balding stable**

KIEREN FALLON is to ride for Ian Balding in 1999. Fallon, the reigning champion jockey, is No 1 jockey to Henry Cecil's stable but has signed an agreement to ride for Balding when his services are not needed by his main employer.

One reason for Balding's approach to Fallon was the lack of opportunity to use the former champion Frankie Dettori who. over the seasons, has steered home many of Balding's best winners, including the speedsters Lochsong and Lochangel.

"We've always used Frankie when available but he's becoming more and more unavailable," the trainer said. "Henry rarely introduces his two-year-old's until midway through the season. Hopefully our two-year-old's will be ready early in the year and we can have some success with them. There are also a lot of handicaps where Henry isn't involved when we can use Kieren."

The up-and-coming apprentice Adrian Nicholls will also be moving to Balding's Kingsclere base. The son of the trainer David Nicholls. Adrian was attached to Barry Hills's yard last season.

Balding is paving the way for his retirement and his son, Andrew, has joined his father as assistant trainer after two seasons with Jack and Lynda Ramsden, who retired from training last month. The amateur jockey Chris Bonner is also teaming up with Balding as travelling head lad.

Nicholls has already benefited from joining Balding with an extended working holiday in the United States as a prize for becoming last season's leading apprentice at Pontefract.

"We made the way clear for him to join us from Barry's," Balding said. "He will spend an extra fortnight in America and we have made arrangements

Jockey Club to lose seat on the board

PETER SAVILL yesterday announced the first shake-up of the British Horseracing Board during his reign as chairman. He unveiled a "constitutional reform" which, subject to ratification in the New Year, will alter the balance of the board for the first time since it was formed five years ago.

Out will go one of the four Jockey Chib members and one of the three members of the industry committee, their seats on the board being taken by a representative of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and an independent director, whose racing background, if any will have to be broad-based.

These changes are part of a package of reform that Savill sees as streamlining the bureaucracy of the BHB in order to bring the governing body closer to fulfilling his Financial

"Our main aim is to achieve the goal of the Financial Plan." said Savill, who said that political opinion had suggested that the BHB's unwieldiness was hindering its decision-making.

"There have been a number of people who have expressed the view that is it not as effective as it should be. We have addressed those issues and we feel the solutions we have put forward achieve those goals."

BANGOR

2.40 Heros Fatal 1.10 Tiraldo (nb) 3.10 Step On Eyre 3.40 Johnny Joe

5-_-: **95**

23.25 MAR

2.10 MISTER BLAKE (nap) GOING: Chase course - Good to Soft (Soft in places); hurdle course - Good to Soft

SCOurse is 6m W of fown off A20 Westenhanger station (service from London, Char-SCOurse) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls S10; Picnic Park 64 per car plus £4 per occupant, Accompanied under-165 free. CAR PARK: Free. Nicholson 13-52 (25%), N Twiston-Davies 13-68 (19.7%), Mrs S Smith 9-76 (11.8%), P Hobbs 8-31 (25.8%), J J O'Niell B-54 (14.8%), P Hobbs 8-31 (25.8%), J J O'Niell B-54 (14.8%), B Hord-ling I J O'Niell B-54 (14.8%), A P McCoy 14-60 (23.3%), A Maguire 12-48 (25%), C Llewellyn 12-70 (17.1%), B Harding II -43 (25.6%), S Wyane II -128 (86%), B FAVOURITES: 154 with in 425 races (36.2%) 18 12-68 (19.7%), Mars S Smith 9-76 (11.8%), i

BL	NKERE	D FIRST TIM	E: Total Joy (1:	IO), Lottery Tick	ret (2.10).	
_		T CTANIE	V I EIGUDE	CONDITION	IAI C HANDI	
1	2.40	DLE (F)	£3,000 add	ed 2m 1f Pe	IALS HANDIC Enalty Value	52,327
1					5120	

	-	management from the transfer of details at the are a
2	10/0	TONNERRE (20) (an Guse) 8 MoNaton 6 17 12
3	624-2	DUNSTON BILL (20) (Paul Holinshead) P Bevan 4 11 7
4	63013-	RIVERBANK ROSE (201) (CD) (Gary Wheldon Synd) W Clay 7 1: 4
•	301/	THE BREWMASTER (655) (D) (J. Poynton & J. Brewer): Wilsons 6 to 2
6	- 1 35	ESEN AL HABEEB (4) (CD) (Bankhouse Conlederacy) D McCam 7 11 0 1722
7		WEET AND SEE (13) (Ed Westman Ltd) T Wall 4 10 17
В	3-P336	WEER (EEY (SS) (Ü) (M F Barradough) Miss A Stokel 9 10 17
9	42235	DOVETTO (218) (Excrs of JT Price) C J Price 9 10 7 L Commi
10	/35-04	MUZENBERG (19) (II) (Mrs. Jule Owen) E Owen Jun 11 10 6 Michael Brenss
Ħ	000-35	TANSEEO (21) (CD) (Miss N C Taylor) M Meacher 7 to 2 J Mag
12	PPP-06	DAMAS (FR) (13) (D) (F G Wison) D McCain 7 to 1
3	085-00	MADEMIST SAM (29) At Clarke) P Beaumont 6 to 1 B Graph
4	3P-500	ZAHAALE (11) (CD) (Christian Wros) J Pickering 5 10 0 E Husber
6	OU2FF-	ARIOSO (205) (CD) (J L Needram) J R Huches 10 10 0
		- 15 declared -
_		to the Ten book on a later. Table to the second of a second

Menimum weight: 10st. Thue hendicap weights: Zahasile Bst 13th, Anoso 9st 8th. BETTING: 5-1 Duniston BSI, 11-2 Riverbank Rosa, 7-1 Eben Al Habeeb, Dovetto, Mithanesist, To-1 The Brimmestor, Weshaby, Taxese, 16-1 Zahasil, 20-1 others 1997: Contdressfordinner 7 ff 9 T Descombe 9-1 (R Hodges) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

Mutanassib: Raced only once since 12th in 1997 Trumph, pulling up 3 out behind The Brewer at Eveter (2m 2t hoap hole, soft) in March. Difficult to assess after long absence, but well breated on best form and market will probably be best guide Tomerers. Three-time winner in 1995-96 but [gittly-raced over timber since. Ethort 3 out but virtually pulled up flat when last of 11 to Lord Richfield on Uttogeter return

Tomerns: Three-time winner in 1995-96 but lightly-reced over timber cince. Effort 3 out but virtually pulled up flat when last of 11 to Lord Richfield on Utanster return Duraston Bilk: Improved form for new yard when 11% lengths 2nd to Sporadic Mission Bilk: Improved form for new yard when 11% lengths 2nd to Sporadic Mission 199 at Uttowater (2m novice hurdle, good to soft). Has not been let off lightly iswerbank Rose: First-time-out winner off this mark over C/D lest term. Later successful at Stratford from 4th lower. Obvious chance at her best.

The Brownester: Sidelined since big Mr Poppleton by 8 lengths in Newbury 2m11 nov heap) in March 197 from 2b lower. Well treated, but long absence to overcome Eben All Habeeb: Lucky length winner from Distant Storm over C/D last month from 15 lower but talled off behind Mariglano at Haydock on Saturday and apposable West And See: 15 lengths 3nd to Blader at Leiscaster in February (2m, good to firm) but generally out of form since and tooks weighted up to the hit Wesheby: Placed over fences since fair 3nd to Noblely at Southwes (2m, soft) in October from 15 higher, but has changed hands since latest run Dovetto: Winner of 3-runner race at Easter in January and chance at weights on 4 lengths 3nd to Brambelli Dules at Chepstow in May, but sidelined 31 weights on 4 lengths 3nd to Brambelli Dules at Chepstow in May but sidelined 31 weights on 4 lengths 5nd to 9 to Eben All Habeeb over C/D last month Tanseeq: Struggling to find 1996-67 from. Failed to improve on promising comeback when 17 lengths 5im of 8 to Eriny at Herbam (2m heap hurdle, heavy) Plenty to do. Dames: 5-time winner for Martin Pipe last season but showing little for new handler and talled off, tast of 8, to Bowcittis Court at Leicester (2m hurdle, good) tatest Magdemlat Saes: Melden, but odd sign of ability. Needs to improve on promising comeback when 17 lengths 5im of 8 to Eriny at Herbam (2m heap hurdle, pood) tatest Magdemlat Saes: Melden, but odd sign of ability. Needs to improve on latest 39 lengths 8th

terts and is returning from long lay-off

ERDICT: Linie worthwhile form to work on and, even without a recent run, Martin Types MUTANASSIB is probably capable of oildying top weight. He was well backed in a bugher event less season, but could not handle the heavy ground. Best attentives are likely to be Riverbank Rose, who can go well fresh, and Zahasila, who should be better for a Towcester pipe-opener and landed a sefer on this card last term.

•			
	1.	10	CLWYD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £3,583
	1	109/2	MINISTLA DEFIEY (22) (D) (BF) (B C Kilby) P Nichols 8 11 5 Tizzird
	2	2.	PLANET PRELAND (256) U.J. Racingi R Lee 6 11 5
	3 6	3-632	PIPARIUS (16) (C) (Airs David Blackburn) P.R. Webber 7 11 5
	4 F	23-22	TIRALDO (FR) (22) (Mrs Graham/J L PaimerNins Griffah) H Daly 5 1) 5R Johann
	5 2	P25/3	TOMS CHOICE (16) (Mas H & Blazzy) J Tuck 9 T 5
	6	311/44	TOTAL JOY (11) (D) (Mrs M Warren) C Martn 7 11 5
	7	12/65	JESSOLLE (31) (CD) (C R Fleet) N Richards 6 11 0
	A .	410-13	SAD MAD BAD (12) (D) (P D Savit) Mrs M Reveloy 4 10 13
	-		= 8 declared -

BETTING: 5-4 Traide, 11-4 Sed Med Bed, 3-1 Minetiz Derby, 12-1 Riperius, 20-1 Jesselle, 25-1

Planel Intland, 33-1 others 1997: Burnt Imp 7 11 8 J Calaghan 4-8 fev (G M Moore) 7 ren

FORM GUIDE

Minella Derby: Favounta, first run for 20 months, caught near line by Rich Tycoon Mimetta Derby: Favourita, first run for 20 months, caught near line by Rich Tycoon in nowce handicap at Worcester (2mst, heavy) on chasing debut. Should run well Planet freliand: Second of 3 in a point in April. Best watched on rules debut Riperitis: Placed in both novice chases, 12 lengths second to Marborough at Worcester (2mst, heavy) latest. Pair bit to find on that form, but was better over hundles Tirraldo: Short-headed by those and collared late on by Ocean Hawk in two nowce events (over 2m44 and 2m7t, latter on heavy) at Worcester. Fine chance on that form Tomis Choles: Poor in points, 50-1 and first run for 18 months, 22 lengths third of 4 finistners to odds-on Desent Mountain in novince chase at Warwack (2m, soft). Total Joy: Won twice at around 2msf over hundles in February 1897. Lest of 4 (well held) in handleso hundle 20 months later and beaten long way on chasing debut Jesselle: Has a tittle to find on hundles form, where twice at 2msf on sound survey. It has been the course. Well besten in two handicap hundles this term Market Rasen (2msf, soft) and is lengths third to Flagship Uberalles at Exister VERDECT: There is not that much between the leading contenders on hundling form. VERDICT: There is not that much between the leading contenders on hurding form. VETUANCE: THERE IS NOT THE TRUCK DERIVED IN the leading contenders on hurding form. JeasoNe should will races over tences, but this race probably lies between Minet-la Derby, Sad Mad Bad and TIRALDO. Henry Dely's string are running wall now and Tiraldo gets the vote after twice impressing already in defeat this cesson, look-ing the winner until very late on last time when Ocean Hawk outstayed him in des-perate ground conditions for a Grade 2 race at Wordsster.

ক্ষুত্ৰত প্ৰকৃত্ৰ ক্ষুত্ৰত ক্ষুত্ৰত কৰিছিল। বিষয়

1.40 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added

501-17	ALPINE PANTHER (15) (D) (P D Savit) Mrs M Reveloy 5 ft 10 P Milyon
114P-4	SESAME SEED (18) (R Tooth) N Henderson 10 TI 10
1P5-16	BAKKAR (31) (M P Burkets 5th Family Septement) T Easterby 4 to 9
	DOM BELTRANO (FR) (25) (D) (Carl Wright) N Twiston-Davies 6 ft 7 C Lieucellyn
120-02	ROYALE ANGELA (FR) (7) (C) (J Neville) J Neville 6 11 4
	FLYING GUNNER (21) (D) (A Maryan Green) D Nicholson 7 to 4
10-041	STEWARTS PRIDE (31) (0) (S H Riley) S Brookshaw 5 10 7 C Meucle
50-1F1	SLEEPY RIVER (16) (J P McManus) J J O'Neil 7 100 R McGrath
06605	RIMOUSIO (11) (CO) (8 R Cambdge) E Cambdge 10 t0 0
	- 9 declared -

FORM GUIDE

Alpine Panther: On the upgrade and impressive 2 lengths winner from Palace Of Gold at Newcastle (3m, good to soft) latest. 5th rise may not stop him. Sessine Seed: Easy winner off this mark at Chepstow (2m4f) a year ago, but later broke blood vessel on chase debut and tailed-off 4th of 5 to Churchtown Glen at Haydock (2m6f hosp hote, soft) on return. Difficult to predict Baktuer: On the upgrade since 7 lengths 5th to Balygowan Beauty at Punchestown in April. Form of subsequent Haydock win and recent 26 lengths 6th of 13 to Lady Rebecca at Chelterham (2m 5f handicap hunda, good) working out. One to con-

sider

Dom Beitmand: Looked improved performer when winning at Newton Abbot on reapparance but putled up (thought to be tame) next time and then ran poorly at Ascot

Royale Angele: Four-time scorer last term. Sign of return to best when beaten 6

lengths by Teastrat at Lecester (2m 4f hosp hote soft) latest. Longer trip will surfand

McCoy looks interesting riding booking. Should be in the turnt

Flying Gumner: Confirmed Newbury return to form when beating Bankhead 3 lengths

at Chepstow (3m). 6th higher here and form let down since, but cannot be ruled

out

Stewarts Pride: Stepping up in class after 6 lengths win over Young Thruster at Tow-cester (3m novice hurdle, soft). Progressing well and possible each-way value. Steepy Rilver: On the upgrade with two Kelso wins and unlucky Ayr defeat in three starts this term. Just out of the handicap but cannot be desmissed with yard on a

Rimouski. On the way back after long lay-off but looks well out of his depth VERDICT: An exceptionally moky handscap, with the Bakkar, Flying Gunner, Stewarts Pride and Steepy River all possible further improvers. But most progressive could be ALPINE PANTHER, whose Newcastle win was franked by Palece Of Golds Haydock effort. He has clearly benefited from a step up to 3m and is worth following.

2	.10	HALEWOOD LAMBRINI BIANCO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 4m 1f Penalty Value 24,299
1	PUP-2	NAZZARO (37) (CD) (Gongolini) W G M Turrer 9 11 10 A P McCoy B
2	6600-3	BACK BAR (25) (F G Weson) D McCom 10 11 7
3		LOTTERY TICKET (16) (A Parier) T George 9 10 17R Wakiey B
4		MUSTER BLAKE (29) (CD) (W D Edwards) R Lee 8 10 6 A Maguire
5		MUSTER TRICK (5) (E Birloeck) L Lungo 8 104
6		ROYAL ARCTIC (22) (T D J Syder) S Melor 8 10 0
7		KENTUCKY GOLD (229) (Halewood International) Mrs L Williamson 9 to 0 S Wynne
8		THREE SABITS (30) (C) (Dowager Countess Carlogan) H Daily 9 to 0 R Johnson 8
9		BALLY LIRA (15) (V Thorne) P Rection 6 10 0
10	421F3	GOLDEN DRUM (23) (McMehon Ltd) J O'Shee 8 10 0
11		PINK GIN (14) (D) (Mrs M Francis) M Megaher 11 10 0
2		GLEN OAK (54) Odrs S Johnson) D Duggan 13 10 0 H Oliver (5)
		- 12 declared -

Minimum weight: 18st. True handicap weights: Kenaucky Gold, Three Saints Bet 12th, Belly Lim, Gold-en Durm, Pink Gin 9st 10th, Glen Oak 9ef Oth. TING: 2-1 Mister Bisks, 3-1 Nezzero, B-1 Golden Drust, 10-1 Three Saista, Royal Arctic, 12-1 t Bar, Lottery Tickst, 14-1 Kentucky Gold, Mister Trick, 20-1 others : Mister Biske 7 10 5 R Thomion 6-1 (R Lee) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Nazzaro: Useful performer 3 seasons ago Signs of return to form when bealen 3 lengths by Grosvenor at Fontwell (3m2/ handicsp chase, soft) on reappearance. Thorough stayer who should not be far away, with McCoy's assistance. Back Bar: Formerly useful chaser with Arithur Moore in letand. Well-beatan 3rd to Earth Surmer on Animate reappearance (3m 3f handicap chase, good to soft), Not proven beyond 3m3f and possibly best weitched for the moment. Lottery Ticlest Landed 4-niner Uticester handicap (3m2f) in March but chancy fencer and made usual missies when 45 lengths 4th of 6 to Represending at Folkestone (3m 2f heap ch, good to soft) letest. Not one to rely on Mister Bitelet: Last year's 20-lengths winner from 13b lower. In good form last two starts, with 2md to Golden Drum at Strattord (3m4f handicap chase, soft) and 8 lengths win over Gigi Beach at Newton Abbot (3m2f heap ch, good to soft). The one to best Mister Tirlot: Three-time winner in 1995-97 but out of sorts in three starts this serm following long lay-oft:

following long lay-off.

Royal Arctic: Winning pointer. Best effort when 22 lengths 6th of 11 to Hopekul Lord at Market Rasen (5m 11 handicap chase, heavy). Open to improvement and stable

named with here following month and appears to have plenty to find.

Three Saints: Capable of taking hand on Newton Abbot 2nd to Bramblehill Buck 2 years ago for Tim Forster but lightly-raced since and will need to Improve on reap-pearance 17 lengths 5th of 11 to Church Law at Leicester (2m7) handicap chase, good). Ballly Lira: Still in novice stage. Hampered and pulled up in race won by Baroncel-it at Newton Abbot (3m2) handicap chase, soft) latest and likely to struggle from out

a at Newton Aubor (amer nanocap crease, son) seem and way to sangge from our of handcap

Golden Drum: Form of 3m4f Stratford win over Mister Blake working out, but will be pressed to confirm form on 8ib worse for ³/₁ length. Latest efforts best overlooked. Plank Gin: Useful performer two seasons ago, but looks light of the past and 100-1 chance when 13th of 22 to Sharp Command at Catterick (3m1f handcap chase, good)

register. Not the force he was as a hunter. Beaten 28 langths when 5th of 10 to Polo Pony at Sedgefield (2m3) hoap on, good to soft) and plenty more to do here VERDICT: Thorough stayers are few and far between, but MISTER BLAKE proved his starring in no uncertain terms in this race last year and looks an improved performer in his two most recent outings. With Richard Lee's teem going well, he will take plenty of beating. Nazzaro, another course and distance winner, and the relatively unsed Golden Drum may be the biggest dangers.

2.40 ASTBURY WREN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,358

SETTING: 5-4 Heros Fetal, 5-2 Tein Ton, 9-2 Finisterre, 8-1 Poler Champ, 14-1 Cinema Paradisc 20-1 Grand Hustica, 33-1 others 1997 Zahealie 5 11 5 W Marston 9-1 (J Pickerpo) 13 ran

lots of Nationals to come."

FORM GUIDE Tein Ton: 20-1, first run for 2 years and first over hurdles when winning 9-runner race at Warwick (2m, soft) by 21/2 lengths from Don Fayruz. Should figure promi-

Cinema Paradiso: Farty useful miler on Flat in 1997, Well beaten on hurd

urit: Fair on Figi. 11-2 from 8-1, 31/x lengths third of 10 finishers to Flaper I) debut at Ayr (2m, soft). coming from behind. Sure to win a race such

Grand Musica: Fair but urveitable performer (stays 105f) on Flat for Ian Balding Heros Fatal: French son of Hero's Honor, Useful on Flat in France, wirning twice this season. Bought for about \$54,000. Best of these on Flat and greatly respect-

Packitin Parky: Well bearen in a bumper and Ludlow novice hundle 18 months

Polar Chemp: Fair middle-distance winner for Sean Woods, sold for 18,000 guines Promise behind Mersey Beat at Windsor on hurding debut, but beaten 22's lengths when fourth to Tain Ton at Warwick two months later so has to improve markedly Scalp: 1m2 Flat winner in New Zealand. Has not reced since July 1997 Granny Rich; Third in a bumper on debut but nothing to recommend her since latt tazy; 66-1, never dangerous and beaten 20 lengths when fifth of 12 finishers to Sporadic Missale at Uttoweter (2m, soft) on second outing over hurdles Merry Christmas: No form in bumper and two novice hurdles Singing Sally: No form, absent 2 years before recent taled-off reappearance

VERDICT: Tain Ton and FINISTERRE are clearly the pick of those with form over hurdles, Finisterre narrowly preferred following his promising introduction nine days ago. However, it is highly that the Martin Proe-trained Prench import Heros Fatal will provide stiff opposition on his hurdling debut.

3	.10	BODFARI STUD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penelty Value £4,299
1	61-F3P	DENICHEUR (FR) (33) (Mrs W Morrell) Mrs L Taylor 7 12 0 R Bellam
2		STEP ON EYRE (210) (D BF) (Arms Duchess of Westmister) H Daly 8 11 9 R Johnson
3	342P-4	EVEN BLUE (19) (CD) (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 10 11 8 S Wymne
4	5P4-6F	DISTINCTIVE (7) (CO) (J Hancock) M Wilderson 9 ft 4 C Lieuwiller

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: High Mood Str 4b.
BETTING: 13-8 Centaur Express. 11-4 Step On Eyre, 6-1 Distinctive, 7-1 Even Blue, 10-1 High Mood.
12-1 Brambleberry, 14-1 Denichteur
1897: Jympan Johnsy B 18 A P McCoy 11-8 tev (J J O'Neil) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

Denicheur: Winner over fences in France. Has twice failed to complete after jump-ing errors here, on remaining start 16 lengths third of 4 under automatic topweight in handicap at Stratford (2m11, soft). Races off 15tb lower mark here. Hard to as-

winning 11-runner nonce race at Towcester in April. Should win handicaps in 1998/99. Even Blue: Good second at Ludiow (2m44, good to soft) in February but ran badiy next time. Backward on reappearance and return to form here cannot be nuled

Distinctive: Disappointing last season and another poor effort on reappearance. Incontention, however, when fell 3 out at Lecester (2m7), good) latest outing Brambleberry: Would have decent prospects on a few of his efforts last season, but no chance on his performances off this mark lest two starts this term Centiaur Expresse: Front-numer, winner here (2m2), heavy) in nounce event in March and in 4-runner race at Market Rasen (2m11/sf. soft) last month. Untried at this

High Mood: Won two of four completed starts in novice chase season, including at 2m5t on soft at Uttowater. Fair effort on return but is 10th out of the handicap VERDICT: Centour Express races off the same mark as when winning a weak

race at Market Rasen three weeks ago, but is unproven at this trip and may well be taken on up front by some of his opponents today. If he is found out in the closing stages, the two most likely to benefit are Step On Eyre and EVEN BLUE, the lat-

3 4	Λi	PATRICK BURLING DEVELOPMENTS OPEN NH FLAT
U.7	<u>"</u>	PATRICK BURLING DEVELOPMENTS OPEN NA FLAT RACE (H) £1,500 added 2m 1f Penaity Value £1,266
1	0	ARCTIC KING (68) (DH Cowgli) J O'Snes 5 Ti 4
2		ARCTIC KNEIGHT (Mrs H M Jones) H Deby 5 11 4
3	0	JOHNNY JOE (15) (Curte Group) L. Lungo 5 11 4
4	5	NAVARONE (25) (BF) (A J Cresser) N Twiston-Danes 4 11 4
5	65	PRINCE TOR (65) (K.J. Condiffe) 9 Brookshaw 5 tl 4
8 0	180-	ROCKY MY BOY (261) (J Henderson) Mrs S Smith 4 ft 4S Durack
7		S AND O P (David Manning Associates) M Pipe 4 11 4
8		SIMBER HILL IJ E Brown) D Nicholson 4 Tl 4
9	D-	CULTE A LADY (308) LI K Cresswell J K Cresswell 5 to 13
	-	- 9 declared -
BETTING	: 5-2	Neverone, 11-4 S And O R 4-1 Simber HM, 5-1 Johnny Joe, 8-1 Arctic Knight, 12-

1 Prince Tor, 20-1 Rocky My Boy, 33-1 others 1997: Bassey 4 1) 4 M A Fitzgerald 2-1 (N Henderson) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE Arctic King: Bought for 750 guineas this year. 33-1, well-beaten eighth of 13 in a bumper at Huntingdon (good to firm) in October Arctic Knight: 5yo by Arctic Lord out of a stoutly-bred mare placed in points Johnny Joe: 16-1, eye-castring headway from rear when 12 lengths seventh of 21 in bumper at Newcastle (good to soft). The most interesting of those that have

prone: 6-4 favourite on debut in 13-runner bumper at Aintree (good to solt), Prince Yer: Showed ability on burnoer debut at Ludlow in May but well beaten at same course in October: Looks sort to do batter, but has plenty to prove Rocky My Boy: Stiff task on what he achieved in 3 soft-surface bumpers last

S And O P: 4yo by Arctic Lord. Obviously commands respect from the Pipe sta-Simber Hill: Phardame 4vo who made ir13,500 gurness last year. One to note Quite A Lady: 50-1 and tailed off in a similar event here in February VERDICT: JOHANNY JOE has shown the most promise in bumpers so tar, but Nevarrone's starting price at Airtree suggests that he may also be capable of a much improved performance. S And O P, trained by Martin Pipe, and Stimber Hitl, trained by David Nicholson, could easily be good enough to make a winning debut and their

chances will presumably be reflected in market moves.

Jockeys are arrested

THREE JOCKEYS, three apprentice jockeys, four former apprentice jockeys and two others have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in a race-fixing scam in Hong Kong. One of those arrested is Stanley Chin, a leading rider in the former colony who has had winners in Britain when with Mark Johnston at Middleham.

Bangor 1.40					
	C	_ H	L	5	
Alpine Panther	3-1	3-1	10-3	3-1	11
Plying Guraner	7-2	7-2	7-2	3-1	7
Royale Angela	7-2	4-1	3-1	4-1	_7
Sleepy River	41	9-2	<u>5-1</u>	9.7	5
Stewarts Pride	16-2	6-1	6-1	6-1	7
Down Beltrano	12-1	1 1-1	10-1	12-1	1
Baidgar	14-1	10-1	12-1	12-1	2
Sesame Seed	14-1	14-1	10-1	14-1	14
Rimousid	66-1	100-1	66-1	66-1	66
Each week s	iiin the	onat,	places	1.2	3
C Coral H Wm H	I LLa	dade	4882	niev 1	Т

RACING RESULTS

FOLKESTONE

Going: Chase course - Good to Soft Hurdle course - Soft (Heavy in places)

1.00: (2m 5f. novice chase) 1. SALMON BREEZE .M A Fitzgerald 4-1

1.30: (2m 6) 110yds handicap hurdle) 1. SORBIERE ______J Goldstein 5-1 1. SORBIERE ______ Goldstein 5-1
2. Sophie May ______ Laspell 7-1
3. Mülmount _____ Magee 5-2 fav
Aleo: 7-2 Woncostalobur (8th), 4-1 Flyng Footse, 2-1 Adioc 20-1 Hi-Hedey (4th),
25-1 Kloran Bay, Northern Village, Smugglers Pown (8th), 33-1 Equity's Darling,
11 ran. NK. 30, 20, 7, 8 (Winner bay geldng by Deep Parr out of Insh Mint, trained
by D Grissell at Robertsbridge for Mrs R A
Proctori, Tota: £750; £140, £330, £180 DF:
£4030, GSF: £36,24 Tricast: £102,24 NR:
Entefaal.

2.00: (3m 2f hand/cap chase) FOLLY ROAD _____ B Powell 11-4
 Mountain PathM A Fitzgerald Evens fav
 Secret Bid _____ J Osborne 9-2 3. Secret Bid Johnson 9-2
Alac: 9-1 Fippence: 14-1 Choisty.
5 ran. 5, dist. (Where bey gelding by Mister Lord out of Lady Can, trained by D Williams at Newbury for Berksthre Commercial Components Ltd.). Tota: £4.20. \$130, \$180, \$7; \$2300, \$C\$F: \$578. 2.30: (2m Et 110vds novice huidle)

1. KINGSMARKR Durwoody 1-2 fav 2. SelectMr R Forristal 3-1 Joe (8th), 40-1 Montes Magic, 50-1 Au Star, Bold Leap (4th), Cherry Pie (8th), French Tale, Jakes Justice, Night Thyne, 100-1 13 ran. 31/i. 18. 4. dist. 11/i. (Winner grey gelding by Roselier out of Gaye Le Moss, trained by O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn

for Robert Ogden). Tote: £150; £130, £150, £570, DF: £150. CSF: £201 1. COOL SPOTR Thornton 4-1

gelding by Boyne Valley out of Beegne Bay, trained by G Ennight at Lewes for Dave Howel: Tota: E570; C240, C160, C180, DF: E2980 CSF: E2201, Tricast: E9211 3.30: (2m 11 110yds NT Flat race)

Placepot: £2320 Ouadpot: £750 Place 5: £1284 Place 5: £368

HEREFORD Going: Good to Soft (Good in places) 12.40: 1. ASK ANTONY (,) Tizzard) 1-3 lav; 2. Trouble Ahead 6-1; 3. Lough Lein Spir-is 50-1 9 ran. 17, 16. (P Nichols) Tote: \$120; \$130, \$140, \$220 DF: \$360, CSF: \$262

1.10: 1. GRANBY BELL (A P McCoy) 7-2 lav: 2. Crazy Crusader 25-1; 3. Precious Island 25-1 14 ran. 1½, 8. (P Hayward) Tote: 6:50, 22-20, 6:20, 6:70. DF: 5:65.30. CSF: 6:893 Tricast: £177959. NR: Carol's Dream. Incast: £17/898, NH: Carol's Dream. 1.40: 1. NATIVE FLING (A P McCoy) 7-2: 2. Hang'em Out To Dry 13-2: 3. Reach The Clouds 3-1 fax 10 ran. 2'k- 12. (P Hobbs). Tote: £50: £140. £30. €150. DF: £17/0. CSF: £25/0. Tricast. £69.89

CSF: E2510, Irroast: E9989 2-10: 1. RAGAMUFF (R Farrard) 6-1; 2. Jason's Boy 5-1; 3. Csm't Say 25-1, 10 ran. 7-4 fav Yankes Lord (pulled up), 7., 10. (P Hobiss), Totas: £1300; 22-40, £120, £650 DF: £1080, CSF: £3782, Tricast: £66224, NR.

2.40: 1. TREMENDISTO (X ACDURA) 25-1: 2. My Legel Eagle 3-1; 3. Dublin River 7-4 tax 11 ran. 2, 3% (7 Wait Tote: \$2090; \$350 \$250, \$120, DF \$8640 \$\$5; \$10104 \$\$NR:

3.10: 1. SARAS DELIGHT (A Maguire) 13-8: 2. S. Mellon Drive 11-10 tax; 3. Chero-kee Boy 2-1 8 ran. 2. 14 (D Nicholson) Tota: 12:50: 11:50, 11:10, 11:80 DF, 11:80, CSF: 13:62 3.40: 1. STUDIO THIRTY (X Azpuru) 3-1: J.-se, T. STUDIO THIRTY X ADDINU 3-1; 2. Rake Hey 5-4 tar. 3. Nath; 2-1 5 ran. 7., 5. (R Dickn) Tote: \$540; \$310, \$110 DF: \$280 CSF: \$7702. Phacepor \$4260. Quadpor: \$930. Place 6: \$3818. Place 5: \$33.32.

MUSSELBURGH Gong: Good to Firm (Good in places)
12.15: 1. SWIFTWAY (M Foster) 16-1; 2. Farceur du Mesnil 15-9; 3. Rocheburg 7-4 fav 13 ren. 1½, 3½. (K Hogg, Icle of Mant. Tote: 22580; 2330, 2100, 2120 DF: 230.70 CSF, 243.74

CSF. (43.74 12.45: 1. CAMDEN FELLOW (Mr N Fehay) 12-1; 2. Weish Mountain 7-2 fav: 3. Tabriz 9-1 15 ran. 3. %. (P Endes, Lambourn) Tolar 21-40; 9-80, C100, 3-70, DF, E105.70, CSF; £5056. Treast: £38043. 1.20: 1. YOUNG TOMO (P Carberry) 6-4 tav; 2. Fm A Bergain 3-1; 3. Lagen Bridge 5-2 10 ran. 3. nk. (J Howard Johnson, Crook) Tota: \$220; \$150, \$220, \$140, DF: \$560, CSF:

1.50: 1. LOVEMAN (A S Smith) 1-2 tav; 2. Oh So Cosy 14-1; 3. Golden Thunderbolt 9-2 12 ran, 9, 9 (K Morgan, Melton Mowbray, Toter 5:60; 5:20, 5:25, 7:50 DF; 2821 CSF: 5:811 2.20: 1. MASTER BAVARD (Mr M Bradburne) 2.1:2 Adapted 5:30.20:9 Destinate 5:30.20:9 Destinat

9-1; 2. Adamatic 100-30; 3. Pentiando Flyer 13-8 bx. 7 ran. Hd. 11. (P Monteth, Rosewall) Tote: £900; £350, £170, DF: £2120, CSF: £2859

2.50: 1. MARBLE MAN (Mr J Crowley) 9-2; 2. Fer East 33-1; 3. Felcon's Flame 14-1 12 ran. 2-1 fav Churmty's Saga. 11, 18, (M Polt, Thrist), Tole: 5530; 52:90, 94:20, 5450. DF: £77:20 CSF: £133:89 Thoast: £1753:32. 3.20: 1. PONTEVEDRA (A.S. Smith) 12-1; 2. Master of The Rock (0-1; 3. Hurting Stane 3-1 12 ran. 11-4 fav My Shenandoah (5th). 4 174. (K Morgan, Melton Mowbray). Total: C2990; 6450, 5230, 5220, 67: 67560, CSP. £1512. Tricast: 642331. Tota Trilocta: £50140. Place 6: \$5386. Place 5: £4058.



Football: Former bank clerk who became game's most powerful administrator lost touch with the grassroots

Kelly's sad error of judgement

ON ANY given Saturday, Graham Kelly is as likely to be found standing behind the goal quence has been a ste at a non-League ground as he is to be seen in the directors' box of a Premier League club. Still an enthusiastic centreforward, he is, in his own way. as much a football man as the Fergusons, Grahams and Dalglishs.

But, somewhere along his route from Blackpool bank clerk to the most powerful administrator in the game, Kelly appears to have lost touch with those grass-roots. In allowing Keith Wiseman to involve him in this ludicrous votes-for-cash scheme, he has committed a fundamental error of judgement. The only redeeming feature of this squalid affair is that, unlike the FA's arrogant and bumptious chairman, Kelly has had the humility to realise this and fall on his sword.

This is no surprise. Though his public image is that of "Kelly the Jelly", the stumbling television performances hide a sharp mind and engaging personality. He once memorably responded to being crowned, by the fanzine, When Saturday Comes, as "the man who has done most damage to football" by turning up to collect the award in a dinner jacket and reeling off a Dickie Attenborough-style acceptance speech.

However, the bumbling manner also hid an ambition which was revealed when he jumped ship from the Football League to the FA and promptly oversaw the emasculation of the former by linking the FA with the major clubs to create the Premier League. Having done this he failed to control the clubs, allowed them to push him into a larger league than envisaged, and to ignore much of the "Blueprint for Change" which was supposed to accompany didate on his election in the another job soon enough, either the new structure. The conse-summer of 1996, he moved

1 Graham Keliv worked in

a bank until the age of 22,

when he joined the ac-

counts department of the

2 Kelly was assistant to the

legendary League secretary

Alan Hardaker, a man he de-

scribed as "a cross between

Napoleon and Genghis Khan

3 Kelly moved to the Foot-

Football League.

on a bad day".

quence has been a steady increase in the gap between the top clubs and the rump which sits uneasily with the FA's duty to foster the whole of the game.

His supporters will point to the (belated) overhaul in the coaching structure, the more pro-active and media-minded administration, and the enormous increase in revenue. His detractors say that that is part of the problem - that the FA has become more interested in commercial activity than football activity.

It was Kelly's head for figures which first brought him into the game, in 1968. His playing career having stalled at the level of Blackpool's third team, for whom he kept goal, he had moved into banking with Barclays when the job of accounts assistant came up at Football League headquarters in nearby Lytham St Annes. Kelly rose to become secretary, the top job, in 1979 before moving to the FA 10 years later.

The Hillsborough tragedy was his first appearance in the spotlight; he did not handle it well and an image was formed. Despite losing weight, swap-ping his bouffant look for a sleeker gelled hairstyle, and sharper clothes, he has never truly lost it.

This led to his being a popular scapegoat and symbol of the FA's perceived lethargy when he was one of the leading proponents of change. The bureaucracy did need streamlining but the danger of concentrating power in the hands of the executive is that you are dependent on the quality of the few individuals concerned.

This is where Wiseman comes in. A compromise can-

THE GRAHAM KELLY FILE before the Hillsborough disaster, which he witnessed

> rendous". 4 Kelly was once a goal-keeper, who was told by Emlyn Hughes, the former Liverpool and England de-

and later described as "hor-

banker. 5 Kelly has played as a centre-forward for the FA's ball Association in February staff side, otherwise known 1988, just nine weeks as "Kelly's Heroes".

quickly to ally himself with Kelly. However, his position was further weakened by the revelation that he had made a paper fortune from the sale of Southampton and his failed attempt to make his position a salaried one - at £75,000 pa. His unsuccessful attempt to get on to the Uefa Committee further dented his stature and the cumulative effect was that, instead of strengthening Wiseman's position by linking himself with Kelly, it fatally weak-

ened the latter's.

The FA has now been plunged into crisis, with the position made worse by Wiseman's intransigence. Though David Davies, who has taken executive control, said the World Cup 2006 bid would not be affected, there would have been champagne and cheers at the German and South African headquarters yesterday. Quite apart from the obvious jibe that, if they cannot run themselves how can they run a World Cup, the bid has now lost Kelly's contacts and will be, however unfairly, tarnished by association with the whiff of corruption about this affair.

Davies, a good choice as temporary chief executive and a candidate for the job full-time, also said Glenn Hoddle's position as England manager would be unaffected. Maybe, maybe not. Wiseman and Kelly were two of Hoddle's biggest supporters and he is not thought to be as close to Davies as might be suspected from their collaboration on Hoddle's diary. That book, incidentally, did not help either Kelly or Wiseman and may hinder Davies if he seeks the top job.

Kelly is unlikely to spend long in the wilderness: one suspects his organisational skills and contacts will earn him on the board of a club or anmay even try and organise a takeover at Blackpool, whose financial distress has pained him, even if the irony that this is partly due to the rise of the Premier League he created may have escaped him.

Nothing has marked his decade at the helm as much as the contrast between his departure and Wiseman's resistance. For all his faults, the FA could ill afford to lose Kelly. If it fails to get rid of Wiseman the folly will be compounded.



Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive, who resigned yesterday

Victor Crawshaw

Fifa given deadline to prevent 2002 boycott

ASIAN FOOTBALL executives By MICHAEL BATTYE yesterday gave football's ruling body, Fifa, until March to avert a regional boycott of the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea by giving the continent the chance of an extra berth in

After emergency talks in Bangkok, the Asian Football Confederation said it was willing to sacrifice one qualifying place because of Fifa's decision to choose two co-hosts. But the AFC said there

would be a boycott - with Japan and South Korea exempted - if Fita refused to give the third-

top team from Oceania. "All spoke in favour of a boycott," Peter Velappan, the AFC general secretary, said.

If Asia's team won a play-off, they would have five places in the finals instead of the four, including two for the co-hosts. that Fifa proposed earlier this month.

"You must understand that this is a very reasonable request," Velappan said. "Let us maintain the status quo, which is three and a half, and from this we are willing to sacrifice one placed Asian qualifier the for the hosts, which is two and

"So therefore what we are now asking is to restore the half seat that has been taken away

But he said the 2002 finals would go ahead, no matter what the outcome of the dispute between the AFC and Fifa over the world body's decision on 4 December to effectively reduce 44 Asian nations to contesting two places in the finals.

"We will honour the responsibility of hosting the World Cup in 2002 in Japan and Korea," Velappan said. "Japan and South Korea will play. That is definite."

The two hosts qualify automatically for the finals, so when backed it. "Yes, we are mem-

four places, including the host slots. Asia were outraged. At this year's World Cup, Asia had three guaranteed places, and earned another when Iran beat Australia in a play-off.

Velappan and other delegates said the 16 nations which met yesterday were unanimous, including Japan, about the boycott threat.

The South Korean representative was not present at the crisis meeting and World Cup organisers and officials in Seoul declined to comment.

Japanese delegate Tadao Okada confirmed he had

Fifa decided Asia should have bers of the AFC and we will cogation to Zurich to try to per-the very edge," said Fernando. operate with AFC decisions and actions. The AFC has to rethe Asian position.

> The delegates to the Bangkok meeting all said they agreed Fifa's stance was unfair. "Asia has one third of the world's population. We have 46 members in Fifa, one quarter of the total. If you want a World Cup without one third of the world's population properly represented, it's unfair," said Manilal Fernando of Sri Lanka.

tain its rights."

Velappan said the AFC would write immediately to the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, explaining yesterday's decision and send a six-member dele-

Games quarter-finals.

ternational football.

formance and newspapers

gave front-page treatment to

It was Withe who introduced

substitute Thawatchai Dam-

rong-Ongtrakul late in the

game with instructions to shoot

And it was Thawatchai

whose thunderous 30-yard free-

kick six minutes into extra-

time gave Thailand, who were

suade him of the seriousness of

We wish to inform him not to push us to take this drastic decision," he said. Asia last boycotted the World Cup 32 years ago over a similar disoute, although North Korea ignored that boycott.

The Fifa executive committee meets in March and we demand the 4 December decision is rescinded. If the March decision is not in our favour, the AFC executive committee will meet again to take the appro-

Syrian delegate Farouk Bouzo said Asia was suffering from the decision to have co-

"Co-hosting was a Fifa decision, not one by the AFC, and you know what Fifa politics are like," he said. "We should not pay at the expense of their politics."

Australia were particularly upset by Fifa's decision because it said the Oceania winners, usually Australia, would have to play off against the fifthplaced South American side instead of an Asian team.

priate decision," Velappan said. Australia have yet to beat a "Blatter must resolve the leading South American counissue or he will push us to McNamara ready for training Withe's Thai triumph

THE CELTIC midfielder Jackie able again for Saturday's visit hospitality, commercial ven- club's past history on the pitch THE FORMER Aston Villa and McNamara will set his sights on an Old Firm comeback after receiving the green light to resume training this week. The Scotland international has been sidelined for the past month with a recurrence of the knee problem that troubled him for much of last season.

"His knee is so much better today, and he can hopefully go into training within the next day or so." said the Parkhead physio, Brian Scott Scott added that "there was

no reason" why McNamara should not be ready for the traditional New Year clash with Rangers on 3 January.

Before that, the Scottish champions - currently trailing

of Dunfermline. The Danish defender has suffered no reaction on his return to training at the end of last week following ankie surgery.

However, Craig Burley's comeback plans have been put on hold with the Scotland midfielder now suffering from a recurring back problem despite shaking off the groin injury that initially forced him out six

Aston Villa are reaping the rewards of their success on the pitch with a record-breaking financial upturn. The Midlands club generated £500,000 in gate receipts from each of the sellout home fixtures with Liverpool, Manchester United and their city rivals by seven points. Arsenal in the past three club from all areas. There

tures and sponsorship have brought in record amounts as businessmen look to jump aboard the bandwagon.

Villa are also set to double the normal sales of their miniseason tickets for the second half of the campaign - and that will bring in another £300,000.

The Aston Villa commercial manager, Abdul Rashid, said: "It seems to be the return of the glory, glory days at Villa Park, and there is a real feelgood factor among the players. the management - and now

"This recent run of games we have had has been a record-breaking spell in terms of the finance generated for the -could have Marc Rieper avail- weeks. In addition, corporate have been good spells in the being it is uncertain."

- but we are doing as well as we ever could on the financial side." Villa's home Premiership encounter with Sheffield dnesday on 28 December is expected to be another sell-

The French World Cup striker Christophe Dugarry could return to Italy to play for Juventus despite a previous unhappy spell in Serie A with Milan and his current success at Marseilles.

Although Marseilles deny having been approached by Juventus, who are looking for cover for the injured Alessandro Del Piero, Dugarry said yesterday: "The only thing I can say is that, in fact, they are interested. But for the time

England striker Peter Withe up a clash with Kuwait in the was hailed as a hero in Thailand

after inspiring the national "A fantastic performance. I could not have asked anything team to a sensational 2-1 win more from the team. They never gave up," Withe said, waving the national flag with his over the joint 2002 World Cup hosts South Korea in the Asian Withe shared the glory as cheeks also painted in Thai ministers acclaimed the per-

colours. The Thai-language newspaper Krungthep Turakij credited the win to Withe playing Queen's victory anthem "We are the Champions" in the dressing-room before the

Withe came to Thailand as part of a deal with the English Football Association. Sir Bobby Chariton and the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, are due in Bangkok this week to lobby for down to nine men, their famous England's 2006 World Cup bid Cup 2006.

"golden goal" victory which set and step up links with Thailand's football authorities.

Conversely, the South Korean supporters and media blasted their team's attitude, saying the players were over-confident and "stuck-up" following their recent victories. The team reached the World Cup finals in France.

The South Korean head coach, Huh Jung-Moo, offered an apology, saying he was sorry for the "disappointing" game. "But we will take it as an expensive lesson and start preparing for 2000 Sydney Olympics," he said

The former German World Cup-winning captain and coach, Franz Beckenbauer, has been appointed head of the campaign committee for World

Hoddle's position & is secure, says FA

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BY MARK BRADLEY

THE POSITION of the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, will not be affected by the crisis within the leadership of the game's governing body, the Football Association have insisted.

Hoddle has been informed of the resignation of the FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, and the vote of no confidence passed in the chairman, Keith Wiseman, by the FA's executive committee yesterday.

The England coach is em-

ployed by the FA, and Kelly and Wiseman have been two of his greatest supporters during the nonths of criticism which Hoddie recently endured. However, the FA's director of

public affairs, David Davies, who is now temporary executive director, maintained: "I will be discussing the situation with Glenn Hoddle but it is not something that immediately affects him. The Football Association of

Wales president, John Hughes, last night said there was "nothing sinister" in the FA's offer of financial help.

Hughes has only been involved in negotiations for the last 18 months, talks which were started by a former president Brian Fear, who stepped down in line with FAW policy, which sees a new president appointed every three years. Hughes said: "All that

money was earmarkd to go to charity and the Welsh football trust to help promote and develop our youth and women's football in Wales. "There was nothing sinister

in it and it certainly had nothing to do with the senior side.

Whatever has been done has been with the full knowledge of the FAW council. I passed on the resolution to them and they voted on it.

"What has happened has upset me and I am quite shocked at the news of Graham's resignation because he is a great friend. The FA has lost a good man.

"Tve a lot of admiration for the work he has done at the FA him devote a lot of his time to Uefa and Fifa.

Commenting on last night's developments, the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, said in a statement: "It is a matter great sadness to hear of events at the FA. However, it is for the internal workings of the FA to re-solve the current situation

"In the meantime the Government expresses its satisfaction with the stated determination of the FA to pursue with all vigour England's 2006 World Cup bid, which is fully supported by the Government."

David Mellor, head of the Government's Football Task Force, has called for a radical overhaul of the game's administration following Kelly's resignation.

Mellor believes Wiseman should also go, even though i has refused to resign in spite of a unanimous vote of no confi-"On a personal level I'm

very sorry about this," he said. "I like Graham Kelly, and he worked hard to make the existing structure of football administration work well in this

"But what has happened today, plus all the other problems that have either been mishandled or not handled by the FA, must surely make everyone who cares about the game aware that there will have to be a massive shake-usin the way football is adminis.

"We can't go on like this, and it will obviously be part of the remit of the Task Force to discuss the issue as to whether or not an independent regulator for football is needed. "What seems to me to be

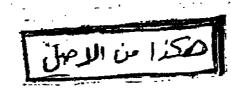
clear is that finding a replacement for Graham Kelly and one must presume Keith Wiseman, since his position is surely untenable, is merely papering over the cracks. There is no alternative to

fundamental change. "What is needed is a proper

administration for football that is appropriate to a modern high-profile, financially driven

"I think it's not only Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly who will end up going, a some of the elderly gentlemen in the blue blazers also need to consider their positions.

"The case for change is ir-



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Houllier second spreads net far and wide and wide

LIVERPOOL HAVE been linked with a top Polish international centre-half on the day that they had two high-quality European defenders training with them for the first time.

Gérard Houllier, the Anfield manager, is also reportedly interested in Richard Dutruel, the French goalkeeper from the Celta Vigo side which dumped his team out of the Uefa Cup last week

Houllier had a look at the Dynamo Kiev centre-half Olexan-Holovko and the Cameroon Copper Rigobert Song, who plays for Salernitana in Italy, at Liverpool's Mellwood training ground yesterday, along with Tony Silva, a 23-year-old goalkeeper from Monaco.

It was also being claimed that Liverpool had made a £2.75m bid for the Polish international defender Tomasz Lapinksi, of Widzew Lodz. The 29 year-old, who has 24 caps for his country, is also a target for Roma and Hamburg.

The Anfield side also hope to complete the free transfer signing of the veteran German international defender, Thomas Helmer, from Bayern Munich

fender, Oleh Luzhni, is reportedly joining the Portuguese club Benfica, who are coached by the former Liverpool man-ees' officer, Philip Don, has ager Graeme Souness. The Lisbon side have apparently beaten rival bids for the 30-yearold from three English Premiership clubs.

The Nottingham Forest man-Esm move to the Spanish side

Pierre from Atletico Madrid. or any other club for that matter" Bassett said yesterday.

Tony Thomas is set to leave Everton and become the fourth former Tranmere Rovers player at Motherwell - following Pat Nevin, Shaun Teale and Ged tails about wage-capping."

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

Brannan to the Scottish Pre-

mier League club. Thomas failed to agree terms with the Fir Park club when they originally tried to buy the 27-year-old defender 10 days ago, but the Goodison Park manager, Walter Smith, vesterday claimed a £150,000 deal is now "imminent".

The former Walsall manager Jan Sorensen, is set for a return to English football with Hartlepool United.

Sorensen, a former Ajax and Denmark playmaker, is being lined up by the Third Division club's owners, Increased Oil Recovery Ltd, to take on the role of chief executive.

Chris Waddle has joined the coaching staff at Sheffield Wednesday. The former Owls and England forward, who was training at Hillsborough while he was playing for Torquay United earlier this season, has accepted a permanent role as part of Danny Wilson's backroom team.

The Premier League is set arr this week. to employ respected former Another Dynamo Kiev dequest to maintain consistency among match officials.

The Premier League referasked six former colleagues to act as experienced guides for the current top-flight officials.

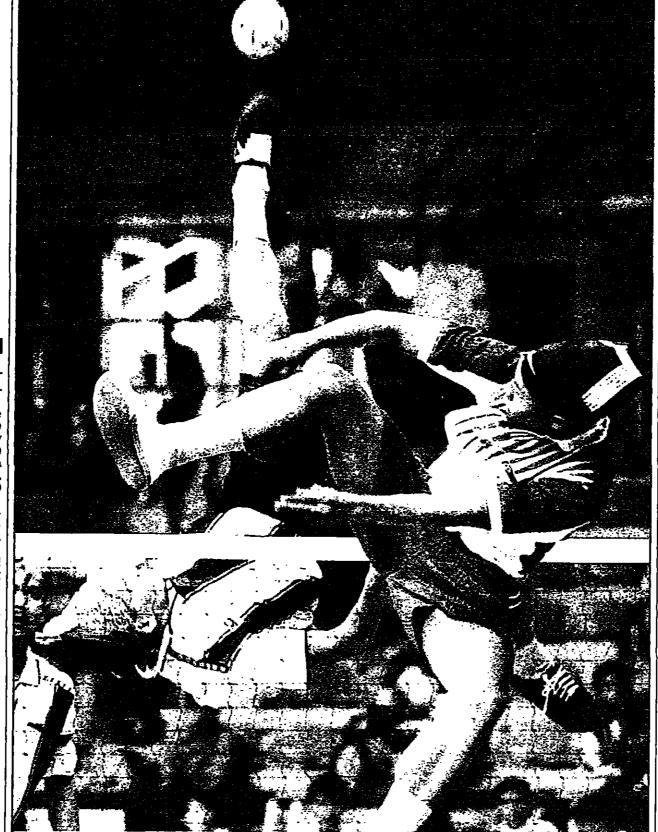
The Football League is "seriously considering" the introduction of wage-capping at ager, Dave Bassett, is playing Third Division clubs as part of down suggestions that his un- a range of measures designed settled Dutch striker, Pierre to keep teams afloat - as rewall-looijdonk, is poised for a ported in the Independent a fot-

night ago. "There's been no interest in man, Barry Hearn, has been given the task of investigating the proposal. The League chairman. Peter Middleton, said: "In the next three months. we will look at getting some data from clubs and then we will be in a better position to talk de-



TOMORROW

RICHARD WILLIAMS SAYS FAREWELL TO WEMBLEY DOGS



Malaysia's Zabidi Shariff connects with a spectacular overhead kick during a first-round takraw match against Singapore at the Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday. Takraw is a cross between football and volleyball Reuters

RFU ready to fight all the way

FRANCIS BARON has barely had time to familiarise himself with the four walls of his Twickenham office, but the new chief executive of the Rugby Football Union is already following the advice of the great Carwyn James by getting his retaliation in first. Baron set the tone for tomorrow's disciplinary meeting in Dublin by fairly tearing into the International Board and challenging them to do their worst.

The RFU has been summoned before a five-man tribunal to answer what amount to charges of insubordination. Members of the IB's executive committee are none too impressed with the English union's failure to discipline its clubs over their programme of 'rebel" matches with the two dissident Welsh clubs, Cardiff and Swansea, and are positively purple-faced over its handling of the hottest political potato in northern hemisphere rugby: the Premiership clubs' attempt to secure their own commercial and negotiating rights through an application to the European Commission.

Four of the most influential edministrators in the game -Tim Gresson of New Zealand, Shiggy Konno of Japan, Alan Sharp of Canada and Rian Oberholzer of South Africa - are flying to Dublin today and will join Syd Millar, one of Ireland's representatives on the IB council, in grilling Baron and the RFU delegation. A wide range of sanctions are theoretically available to the IB and, while the videly touted expulsion of England from international competition is a non-starter, senior board members have spoken of the possibility of a heavy fine.

"I'm not happy with talk of a fine." said the forthright Baron during his pre-emptive strike.

Rovers' future in doubt

RUGBY UNION

By Chris Hewett

"The IB argument is flimsy. There are no material grounds for this hearing and there is nothing for us to answer. We will resist vigorously and we will not pull punches.

Any attempt by the IB to impose a meaningful punishment on the English will ensure the swift involvement of the civil courts. "That would be lovely," said one RFU committee man yesterday. "Let's throw what little money we have left at the lawvers

The Welsh Rugby Union, beavily criticised for its own failure to bring Cardiff and Swansea to heel, is due to face the music in Dublin on Friday. The two refusenik clubs are adamant that they will not return to their own domestic fold and with the English clubs backing their breakaway by giving them regular fixtures, the stage is set for a fight to the finish.

Meanwhile, in London yesterday, the Premiership clubs were negotiating about a newlook European Cup for next season. They were joined by a French delegation led by Serge Blanco, once the greatest fullback on earth. Although the participants described it as a "historic meeting", there was not even the merest whiff of an agreement amid all the hot air.

"Both sides stated their positions, concerns and aspirations and agreed to meet again in Paris next month," said a spokesman for English First Division Rugby, the Premiership clubs' umbrella organisation.

Blanco and his compatriots have hinted that without an English return to European competition next season, there will be no French presence either.

£25m for young talent

ENGLAND'S CRICKETERS will no doubt be reflecting today that. things can only get better. They may be right - if a major new sports funding initiative announced in the presence of the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, resterday has the desired effect.

The English Sports Council has launched two new funding schemes aimed at developing voung sporting talent which will command an annual total of £25m of National Lottery money. The new figure will supple-

ment the £30m currently being spent every year on elite British performers through the World Class Performance programme which was set up in 1996.

"This is the most important and 2008 Olympics. development in funding of top

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

athletes since the introduction of the World Class Performance programme," said Trevor Brooking, the acting chairman of the Sports Council. We have funding in place for the next 10 years, so we can plan long term."

The two new tiers of the programme - World Class Start. and World Class Potential - will support promising competitors in the 11 to 13 age range and 15-18 range respectively. The intention is to mark out and encourage those who could be winning medals at the 2004

The youngest age group,

tence grants of up to £500 each to cover expenses such as travel; at least half of the new funding will go to individual sports bodies to enable them to provide extra coaching and support, and send teams abroad. The Potential athletes can expect grants of up to £2,000 each.

The henefits of investing Lottery money in top competitors has been shown time and time again," said the Sports Council's chief executive, Derek Casey. "Now we are seeking to develop the competitors of the future. I no longer want to see talented performers and their parents frustrated because of lack of investment."

World Player of the Year award. The winner, who is determined from a

poll of 129 national coaches, will be

announced at a gala held by foot-ball's world governing body in Barcelona on 1 February. Ronaldo

has won the award for the past two

years but Zidane is the favourite to

take the honour this time.

SPORTS FUNDING who will command £10m of the new total, can expect subsis-

ever following the decision of the multi-millionaire Paul Caddick, to pull out of a deal that could have rescued the club.

Rovers, £1.3m in debt and in the hands of administrators for nearly two years, were on the point of having their New Craven Park ground taken over by Caddick, who already owns

But he has now decided to pull out, after being told by Hull City Council that he would have to foot the £400,000 bill to lift a restrictive covenant at the ground. Caddick also had long-term plans for a 20,000 allseater stadium in the city which would have incorporated a

BY DAVE HADFIELD

multi-purpose sporting acade-

my, and would have housed Rovers, Hull City Football Club and possibly its other rugby league club, the Hull Sharks. But those plans have also been turned down and Caddick now says that the whole scheme is dead. "Without the

support of Hull City Council we are unable to proceed," he said. The club's chairman, Barry Lilley, said that, despite the setback, it was "Business as usual. We are talking to the adminis-

trators about other avenues open to us.' Although the Rugby League

cern, because of the issue of cross-ownership, a club of Rovers' stature remaining in the hands of administrators is a bigger worry. The League's chief administrator, Neil Tunnicliffe, was being briefed on the situation yesterday.

Rovers' problems overshadowed an optimistic day for their neighbours. Hull yesterday announced a new sponsorship deal with the telecommunications company, JWE, that will help to finance their ambitions in Super League next season. The club said that it had not committed itself to being part of Caddick's plans and intended to carry on alone at The Boulevard.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL Jim Tomsula has been named the Scottlsh Claymores' new defensive line coach following a spell with Eng-the Monarchs. At 32. Tomsula is one of der youngest assistant coaches of the youngest assistant coaches in the NFL Europe League.

San Francisco's Garrison Hearst and quarterback Steve Young both trounced the Detroit Lions 35-13 on Monday night. Hearst rushed for a franchise-record 198 yards and a touchdown and Young scrambled 10 times for 66 yards and a score as San Francisco also set a team record

SKI HOTLINE

WESTERN DIVISION

ATHLETICS Colin Jackson will appear at the BUPA Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham on 14 February 1999, as preparation for the World Indoor Championships in Japan starting on 5 March, Joining

him in Birmingham will be the World Athlete of the Year, Haile Gebrselassie. who will be attempting to break the world indoor 5,000m record.

BASEBALL

The Chicago Cubs have sold Brant Brown to the Pittsburgh Pirates, with with the Pirates' pitcher Jon Lieber moving in the opposite direction. The catcher Chad Kreuter has agreed a one-year contract with the Kansas City Royals, who become the sixth club of his career.

BASKETBALL Nikola Bulatovic, a member of the Yugoslavian team which won the

Slopes (cm) Last Temp

SPORTING DIGEST ning captain Zinedine Zidane are the short-listed candidates for Fifa's

tast summer, was yesterday sen-tenced to three years in prison for raping a 15-year-old girl. Bulatovic continues to deny the charge and has appealed against the verdict.

World Championships in Greece

BOXING

Carl Thompson's mandatory World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title defence against Sheffield's Johnny Nelson will be staged by the highest bidder after Thompson failed to agree cash terms with the Frank Warren.

Birmingham's Robert McCracken has been confirmed as the manda-tory challenger for the World Bos-ing Council middleweight title, currently held by Hassine Cherifi of France. The fight is expected to take place in the summer.

CYCLING Next year's Tour of Spain will feature a tougher itinerary covering more mountain stages, organisers

FOOTBALL Brazil's Ronaldo, Croatia's Davor Suker and the French World Cup-win-

FA CARLING

PREMIERSHIP

4 Manchester Utd v Middlesbrough1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley v Swindon Birmingham v Sunderland

18 Stockport v Oxford Utd 19 West Brom v Tranmere

SECOND DIVISION

Sunday: She/field Urd v loswich.

20 Burnley v Northampton 21 Chesterfield v Wigan

12 Bradford City v Wolves

IS Gronsby v Warford

17 Port Vale v Bur

16 Norwich v Bostol City...

said yesterdav.

Chelsea v Totter

6 Notim Forest v Blackburn ..

Charlton Athletic v Aston Villa.

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Bradford 2 Lincoln 1. Auron Insurance Combination First Dia: OPR 2 Tottenham 0. MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds 2 (Hopkin 40, Bowyer 90) Coventry 0.

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisio

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division: Chelmsford 6 Brackley 1. League Cup second round: Post-poned: Boston Utd v Stamford. THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Port Vale 1 Notes County 1: Norwich City 0 Blackburn Rovers 3: Preston & Perestoroush Utd 2 PONTINS LEAGUE First Division:

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION
First Division: Luton 0 Colchester 2: Gillingham 0 Reading 1.

ASIAN GAMES (Bangh ingkok) Quarterfinals: Iran 4 Uzbekistan 0: Thailand 2 5 Korea 1: China 3 Turkmenistan 0: Kuwat 0 Qatar 0 (*set*; *Kuwait won 3-1 on penal*-GREEK LEAGUE: Olympiakos Piraeus

REARRANGED FIXTURES Nation-mide League: 1 April: Fulham v Mili-wall (from 3 April). 11 April: Norwich v Ipswich (from 10 Apr).

GOLF

Graeme Marchbank will become the new events manager of the Scot-tish Golf Union next year. He is currently the director of tour operations on the European women's circuit.

ICE HOCKEY The Sheffield Steelers could fold in

can find a short-term financial rescue package. Steelers are currently preparing for what could be their final game at the Sheffield Arena tomorrow against Nottingham Panthers. The club have been unable to recover from debts of £400,000. despite a donation of £100,000 from their Spain-based owner George Dodds, and a further £100,000 which was raised by fans NHL: Montreal 2 Phoenix 2 (of): NY Rangers 5 Calgary 2; Colorado 0 St Louis 0 (of).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

RUGBY LEAGUE RUGBY UNION

es' new full-back Shane Howarth has been named the Allied Dunbar Pre-Black with a grandfather from Cardiff produced fine performances against

Hannah Stodel. 13. from Colchester, is the 1998 BT Yachting Journalist's Association Young Sailor of the Year.

SAILING

SNOOKER

Ronnie O'Sullivan's miserable season continued in Dublin yesterday when he lost 5-4 to Pontefract's Jimmy Michie in the first round of the inaugural Irish Open. Michie now meets Scotland's Billy Snaddon for a place in the last 16 of the £305,000 event. Also through is the German Masters winner, John Parrott, who defeated the Welshman Dominic Dale 5-4. RISH OPEN (Dublin) First round: J Michie (Eng) br R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-4; J Par-rott (Eng) br D Dale (Mal) 5-4; M Couch (Eng) br A Robidoux (Can) 5-1; A McManus (Sco)

bt D Harold (Eng) 5-4: B Snaddon (Sco) bt A Haroldton (Eng) 5-4: S Hendry (Sco) bt J Perry (Eng) 5-1: M Williams (Wai) bt L Wail-er (Mai) 5-3: P Hunter (Eng) bt S Davies (Eng) 5-4: T Drago (Malta) bt N Broughton (Eng) 5-4: G Dott (Sco) bt M lung (Eng) 5-4:

SWIMMING

Australia's Michael Klim, who won medals in seven events at the Perth World Championships in January, has expressed his desire to repeat the achievement at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. The swimming programme kindly spreads Klim's seven events over the eight days of competition.

TODAY'S NUMBER 2,592

The number of table tennis balls provided in the athletes' village at the Asian Games in Bangkok - an average of 20.7 for each player.

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(the fax lists codes for 180 re- sorts)	Soli80% CANADA	Gt snow higher u	p 60	90	11.12	-2C	Unsettled
To listen to the latest snow and	Whistler45% FRANCE	Firm packed	140	185	07.12	-2C	Snow
weather report:	Deux Alpes,40%	Upper runs good	50	130	11.12	30	Clearing
Phone 0901 47 70 051 + code For a fax copy of the latest snow	Meribel10%	Upper runs only	30	100	11.12	10	Cloudy
and weather report:	Cervinia80%	Packed powder	10	110	02.12	-8C (Changeable
Fax 0906 55 00 086 + code	Sauze D'outz 10%	Only Clotes open	10	25	25.11	-5C	Unsettled
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WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

22 Gillingham v Norts County Luton v Millwa Preston v Fulh 25 Reading v Oldham 26 Walsall v Stoke 27 Wrexham v Bournemout 28 Wycombe v Lincoln City 29 York v Manchester City

THIRD DIVISION Barnet v Leyton Orient 31 Cardilf v Mansfield ... 34 Hartlepool v Southend

HEITTODE PREMIER LEAGUE 39 Celtic v Dunfermine

Sunday: Klimarnock v Dundee Utd.

43 Ayr v mamicon 44 Hibermian v Chydebank 45 Raith v Greenock Morton 46 St Mirren v Falkirk...... SCOTTISH

43 Ayr v Hamilton

48 Alloa v Forfar 49 Arbroach v East Fife Not on coupons: Clyde v Queen of the South, Livingston v Stirling, Partick v In-verness Ct. Scottish Third Division: Berwick v Albion Rovers, Brechin v Queen's Park, Cowdenbeath v East Stirling, Dumbarton v Stenhousemuir, Ross County v Montrose. TEN HOMES: Liverpool v Sheffield Wed-nesday, Manchester Utd v Middlesbrough.

West Ham v Everton, Celtic v Dun fermline. Dundee v Aberdeen, Ayr v Ham-iton, Alloa v Forfar, Arbroath v East Fife. FIVE AWAYS: Port Vale v Bury. York v Manchester City, Barnet v Leyron Orient, Hearts v Rangers, Stronraer v Airdrie. FOUR DRAWS: Coventry v Derby, New-castle v Leicester, Nottingham Forest v Blackburn, Southampton v Wimbledon. Probs forcost selections by Jun Doxies. Pools forecast selections by Ian Davies

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL er Utd v Chelsea (8.0) SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE erweil v Dundee (7.45)......

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Caledonian Thistle v Alic PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE Clachnacuddin v Cove Rangers (8 0); Fo charnes v Kenth; Rothes v Peterhead (1 COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD Quarter-fine

FA CARLSBERG VASE Third round: Bowers
v Diss; Besington Terners v Mickeover.
RYMAN LEAGUE First Disision: Molesey v Worthing Second Disision: Harlow v Abingdon Town thing Second Division: name of the second round:
DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP Second round:
AFC v Weston-super-Mare, Racing Warand AFC v Weston-super-Mare Rectarch. St SCREMPS DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Dialslog: Bridport » Tounton, Les Phillips Cap second Bridport v Tounton, Les round: Tweston v Bridge

MEMSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP Second round second leg: Comes Sports v Domason; Moneyfields v Bernetton Heath Harlequins. MARKSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Pres vision: Canterbury v Cray Wandelers. VINNET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: East Preston v Seiser. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Consett v Shidon PORTTHIS LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Acconvilla v Lekester (7 0): Leeds v Blockburn (2 0). First Divisions Bolton v Manchester Gcy (7 0); at Rochelder: Burnley v Iranimer (7.15): Port Vale v Coventry (7 0). Stockport v NewGoster (7 0) (or Hyde Urd) Talind Division: Carlste v Halifax (2.0); Chester v Scunthorpe: Chesterfield v Walsall (2.0); Darlington v Hull (2 0); Harriepool v Rochole (7 0). AUFON (MSCURANCE COMBINATION First Divisions Barnet v Asensi: Brighton v Milhaell (7.0); Fultam v Charlot (1 0); Portsmouth v Samidon Southampton v Wimbledon; Wadford v Norwach The Tubes Fay World Culp Third v Samidon Southampton v Wimbledon; Wadford v Norwach

THE TIMES FR. YOUTH CUP Third round: Bury y Newcastle; Tottenham v Walsall (7.0)! Crewe v Branford: Bollon v Barnsky (7 0); Middlesbrough y Wolves (7.0); Cuford Urd v Winstedon

RUGBY UNION CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER GUP First Round second legs Moseley v North (7 45); Bedford v Coventry (7.30).

BASKETBALL UNI-BALL TROPPINE Tharnes Valley Tigers v Worthing Bears (8 0) BIDMESSER LEAGUE: Greater London Leopards v Manchester Guants (7.0) [at London Arena).

OTHER SPORTS ICE HOCKEY: Challenge match: Basing Bison v Great Britain Under-20 (7 0).

SNOOKER: Irish Open (Dublin).

COMA





Test cricket: Second collapse of match means Australia cannot lose series but Stewart pledges to keep battling

VIALLI'S RESERVES OF STRENGTH P20 •

Ashes to ashes for shamed England

IT ENDED as it has threatened By DEREK PRINGLE to do all tour, in a clatter of wickets. England's ability to collapse at a moment's notice is becoming a feature of their cricket. But, if once in a match is usually enough to damage your prospects, twice consigns you to history.

Perhaps we ought not to be surprised. Australia, who have retained the Ashes for a sixth successive time even without Shane Warne, are currently the best side in world cricket. But if England should perhaps have been beaten in the long run, the nature and speed of their demise here and at Perth has been alarming.

More worrying is that lessons are not being learned and, every time the heavy necklace of pressure is placed around their necks. England tend to choke. No amount of hard work in the nets - and England have put in the hours can prevent that.

For that reason, blame cannot simply be attributed to one or two individuals. This is Team England, remember, and while those here, especially Graham Gooch and David Lloyd, will have their roles scrutinised, those involved back home must also expect some criticism.

Some hard thinking must be done to make English crick- is one team in world cricket et more rigorous and talentconcentrated, qualities two divisions will not go nearly far enough towards improving.

followed the headlong rush for of throwing matches without souvenir stumps showed that the Australian players, if perhaps not the public, still regard bowlers have competed favourused to be the utmost respect, of course, but England have not made them break sweat nearly enough for that.

Australia have never held has been 20-4 in Australia's knowledge it. favour

that this is a tougher and bet- the right total, you can't expect ter prepared team than usual. Prepared for what? Failure, perhaps; winning, no. But for a about whether he felt Australia fortuitous tropical storm in had such a psychological edge Brisbane, England would already be 3-0 down.

unbeaten 63 and who surveyed the final moments from the other end yesterday as England lost their last four wickets by us," he said, "especially their which leads to a lack of self-ex-

in Adelaide

Australia 391 & 278-5 dec England 227 & 237 Australia win by 205 runs

miracle if he had, so poor has England's cricket been since an hour before lunch on the third day. "We came here with the intention of winning back the Ashes," the captain said. "Most of the media reckoned that was nigh on impossible, and they've been proved right.

"We didn't play well enough against the best side in the world and because of that we've been beaten really quite convincingly, especially in the two games we've lost. This is the fifth series I've been involved in against Australia, and it certainly hurts. But now that the Ashes have gone, our next objective is to try and square the series, which will not be easy.

He can say that again. After all, was not Australian cricket meant to be at a low ebb this week following revelations of a cover-up after two of their players had taken money from an Indian bookie?

Match-fixing may be an emotive business, but, if there guaranteed to be clean, it is England. On the evidence of this Test, as well as the one in Perth, the majority of their The celebratory huddle that batsmen are certainly capable being bribed. To their credit, England's

this contest with importance. It ably, as have Ramprakash and Nasser Hussain with the bat. Yet modern Test matches are won by teams who have 11 players contributing, rather than one or two, and it was inthe Ashes for longer, which is teresting that, while Mark Taya reflection of just how poor lor thought the marked English cricket has been over difference between the contrithe past 11 years. Since Mike butions of the Australian and Gatting's Ashes-winning tour England tails was a significant in 1986-87, the victory count factor, Stewart refused to ac-

"We played seven batsmen, The England selectors claim Stewart said. "If they can't get the bottom four to."

Taylor answering a question over his opponents that they were beaten before they came Alec Stewart, who made an on the park, felt the advantage had been built up over a number of years.

"I think they are intimidated lower order. The last four or five pression in their cricket.



England's captain, Alec Stewart (left), leaves the Adelaide Oval as Australia celebrate retaining the Ashes yesterday by winning the third Test

batsmen have played a big part in this game. Glenn McGrath is not a better batsman than Peter Such or Dean Headley, but he was able to hang in there and help Justin Langer add 37 for the last wicket."

Compare this to the 17 and managed, and you begin to understand why Stewart is wrong to dismiss the matter. Australia may have several highclass players, but it is their attention to the small detail that makes them so hard to beat. Good sides are able to bring the best out of individuals. For some reason tours seem to have become joyless, which may explain why England, who can more or less hold their own at home, have a poor record abroad. There appears to be an inner tension among players that is not obvious at home,

Perhaps it is the culture of rather than the scoreboard, practice that now pervades cricket on tour that is causing the problem. In Perth, following their defeat in two and a half

which England had to beat. Six hours is a long time to bat on a fourth-innings pitch in Australia, especially when the ball days, the team were given two is turning as much as both days most volunteered to have MacGill had made it do the 16 runs England's last four nets. Practice, like revising for previous evening. Predictably,

INSIDE

Henry Blofeld: I found myself wondering if I would ever again see England win back the Ashes' Jake Lynch: "Unless England are careful, by the time they have caught up, the Aussies will have moved on', page 21

exams, is fine if done properly, England did not even get halfbut too much makes you stale. way towards running the clock Maybe it is that, along with the lack of a decent break, which explains why England players tend to tolerate tours rather

yesterday, David Platt was

poised to become the youngest

manager in Serie A by taking

over troubled Sampdoria. The

Genoese side have lined up

land captain as their new

expected to be confirmed by the

end of the week, looks set to pip

some of European football's

most famous names to land his

Platt, a former Arsenal.

Aston Villa and Crewe mid-

fielder who retired in the sum-

mer after helping the Gunners

to the Double, made a big im-

pression in Italy with Sampdo-

first coaching post.

coach.

With the bounce becoming increasingly variable, the pace bowlers were also dangerous and it was them rather than the Beginning the final day on tweakers who polished off Eng-122 for 4, it was the clock, land with the second new ball

after a morning of stoic resistance from Stewart.

Having not faced a ball the previous day, Stewart played rather well. He is not the best technician against the turning days off. On the second of those Colin Miller and Stuart ball, but he is a fighter and his unbeaten knock was comfortably his highest of the series. For a while he and Ramprakash looked untroubled enough to prompt recalls of the recent great escapes at Johannesburg and Old Trafford.

But if hope began to gather momentum it was quickly dashed when Damien Fleming, reverse swinging the old ball, plucked out Ramprakash's leg stump with a perfect yorker.

As in the first imnings, the adage "get one, get them all" came to pass. John Crawley, his temperament as well as his technique now in question, was once again found wanting outside off stump as McGrath hit the edge two balls before lunch.

time. At the highest level both are flawed.

ply capitulated as McGrath and Fleming mopped up a tail which included Graeme Hick who, judging by the way he used his bat to slice a wide one to slip, was ready for surrender. The choice home. By then it could be a between Hick and Crawley for a three-match series.

place on this tour has been one of the most irrelevant of all Finai day, Australia won tass

89no. M R Ramprakash 61: S C G MacGill 4-53) AUSTRALIA - Second landings 278 for 5 dec (M) State 103, J L Langer 52, M E Waugh ENGLAND - Second hinings

England, who lost by 205 runs, now have to wait until the new millengium for another chance to bring the Ashes

page 3

TO THE TR

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Andrew Comments

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Sept at Column 5

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ADELAIDE SCOREBOARD P M Such low b McGrath 5 mm, 4 bolls Extras (b7, lb9, nb14)....... Total (336 mls, 89 overs)

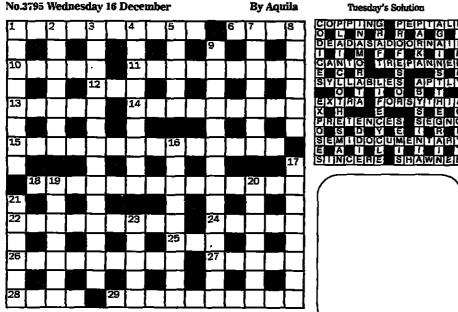
AUSTRALIA - Pirst Inches 391 (I'l. Langer 179no. S R Waugh 59, M A Taylor 59; D W Headley 4-97).

Pali (cont): 5-163 (Ramprakash), 6-221 (Crawley), 7-221 (Hick), 8-231 (Gough), 9-236 (Mullally), 10-237 (Such).

Umphres: S A Bucknor and S J Davis. TV replay umphres: P M Angley, Match referees J R Reid
Man of the match: J L Langer.

Compiled by Jo King

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 Psst! Hairdo arranged 25 Drink in the late afterfor Gershwin, for exam-

10 Wellington dropping spotty heart for making soup (5) 11 A girl more involved in carry-on (9) 12 Reminder of some evac-

6 Touched, dead astern

13 Permanent way of band 1 on record (5)

14 Kidney-card (9) 15 Dinner hour's due to restore such a person (14) 3 18 Suspect acts, trading with £500 (6,8) 22 Junior employee ap-

pears furtive (9)

24 Pound once in the

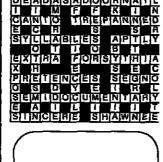
noon (3) 26 I run flat that is disorderly (9) 27 Double exposure (5)

28 States "yes" on board 29 Woman looking forward to Peter's shop opening

Appalling fellow taken off, just (8) One supports swimmer

in a jolly group (7) Standard commission in market trading (14) Frank and Roy posi-tioned in phone-book?

5 Magi's wandering, ac-



Tuesday's Solution

cording to letter from Greece (5) John, say, and possibly Peter also? (7) Not the practice of the Circle Line (6) Bracing French air treating Leslie's malaria

(2.12)Cycle outing, returning a different way (5,4)
17 Those running French
art activities? (8) Shipshape junior officer

20 Hug ends of elm, caber-tossing (7) 21 Ancient measures of copper coins (6) 23 Fitter left in Lincoln, right at the end (5)

BY JOHN CURTIS

Gillespie his first major signing for Blackburn, and looks set to appoint Brian McClair as his deputy by the end of the week. Rovers landed the Newcas-

tle and Northern Ireland winger in a 22.35m deal and Gillespie has signed a four and a half year contract at Ewood

Gillespie was bought by Kevin Keegan as part of the deal which took Andy Cole to Manchester United in January 1995. Kidd is no stranger to his talents after watching him develop as a youngster at Old Trafford.

FOOTBALL

Platt close to Sampdoria job

BY MATT BARLOW

Now he could be handed the task of turning round the Italian club's ailing fortunes by his the former 32-year-old Engfriend, the Sampdoria managing director, Emiliano Sal-Platt, whose appointment is

Sampdoria have fallen from grace in recent months. A 5-2 defeat at Lazio last Sunday saw them slide to 14th in the 18team Serie A. just one place away from the relegation zone. The defeat brought the sack for Eugenio Spalletti, who had previously coached First Division Empoli from 1993 to 1998.

Platt, who was a player at I couldn't think of a better place Sampdoria when they won the to start," Wilkins said. "Samp-

of his desire to try his hand at management. He has travelled extensive-

ly since his retirement, picking up coaching experience in many different countries along the way, and he has also been helping Howard Wilkinson at the Football Association with England's youth and schoolboy

Ray Wilkins, another England international who enjoyed a successful spell in Italy, said Platt could not afford to turn down the chance to manage one of Italy's biggest clubs. "If he is looking to go into management, and if they want him,

Italian Cup, has made no secret doria have had their problems but they still have some very talented players." Wilkins, who managed Queen's Park Rangers and Ful-

ham, said the manager's job in Italy was a very different task without the endless hours of paperwork and graft which normally follows training for English managers. He said: "The manager finishes at the same time as the players. There isn't the office

everyone wants to be, with the lads." If Platt's appointment is consome of European football's

they could hamper his progress

at Ewood Park.

Buck issues available from Historic Newspapers, 19986

work you have here. The man-

ager's job is on the training

field and I think that's where



with Sampdoria Empics

top names to get the job. Ex. Sampdoria players Graem Souness, Trevor Francis, Ruud Gullit and Giantuca Vialli, and the former Blackburn and Inter Milan manager Roy Hodgson firmed he will have beaten have also been linked to the va-

"I know their position in the

ieague doesn't look good but i

Rovers reunion for Kidd and Gillespie

Kidd could barely hide his

BRIAN KIDD has made Keith

When Gillespie left United. his then manager. Alex Ferguson, admitted he had not wanted to part with the Northern Ireland winger. But his hand was forced by a ruling from Uefa, European football's governing body, which restricted the amount of non-English players sides could field in European competitions.

Colour Past, St Albans Road, Walford

840370. Wednesday to Pecopher 1998

delight at taking the 23-year-old to Ewood Park, "I don't have to justify this signing, because Keith is pure quality," he said. "He is one of a dying breed, and I believe his best years are ahead of him.

a big favourite with the fans. Kidd added that he was unconcerned by Gillespie's re-

"I also believe he will prove

Registered as a newspaper with the Prof Cities

that," Kidd said. Gillespie, meanwhile, im-

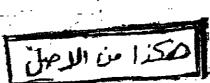
mediately shrugged off talk of relegation at his new club, adding he is sure that under cent injuries and concerns that only survive but prosper.

Kidd's control Rovers will not @Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Lamited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Major

"We are thoroughly happy think it's a false picture. There with the medical side of things. are too many good players He hasn't had a scan, and there here, and I feel sure we can pull is no problem with anything like through." McClair was given permission to leave his Motherwell contract yesterday and sign on at Rovers as Kidd's assistant

manager. The Scot has agreed to the move after talks with Pat Nevin, the chief executive Motherwell. While Kidd will coach the

first team, McClair will be a buffer with the squad as he cuts his teeth in management.



WEDNESDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



rom being the poorest ethnic group in the 1950s, the Chinese now enjoy a higher living standard than any other group in Britain, including the whites.

The figures speak for themselves: on average Chinese men earn £368 per week, compared with £331 for white men; only 9 per cent are unemployed, compared with 15 per cent of whites, and their participation rate in higher education is far higher than that of the white community.

DENENDENT'

The Chinese, once a byword for poverpare now riding high. One reason is the emphasis on education, which has been the passport to success for many young Chinese; the other is more prosaic: self-employment, at the heart of which stands that traditional icon of the Chinese community the world over, the restaurant.

The Chinese population in Britain may be less than 200,000 – or 0.3 per cent of the population – but their rising fortunes mirror those of Chinese communities all around the world. The Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about — White Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about — White Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about — White Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about — White Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles from Chinese diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of them all – numbers about 500 miles diaspora – the largest of the call for the largest of the largest of

Take the US, where the Chinese community arrived in the middle of the 19th century, first attracted by the gold rush and then to work as coolies building the railroads. They suffered harsh discrimination, were the prime targets of the exclusion acts of the 1880s (which all but halted further Chinese immigration), and were not allowed to become American citizens until the Second World War.

Today they are the educational highfliers of American society. As Professor Ling-Chi Wang, of the University of California at Berkeley, points out: "Chinese Americans have done phenomenally well in public schools, and especially in the elite universities and colleges. I predict that, in the near future, a majority of students at the nine campuses of the University of Calfornia – which are among the leading educational institutions in the US – will be Asian Americans, the largest group of whom will be Chinese Americans."

In California's Silicon Valley, the entrepreneurial heart of the information revolution, about one-third of the engineers are Asian-Americans, with the Chinese comming the largest single group. Ling-Chi Wang argues that "the migration of Chinese intellectuals to the United States since 1945 has far exceeded the Jewish migration in the 1930s, and will be seen by future historians as one of the most significant contributions to the development of American science and technology".

A similar picture of achievement is being repeated in Australia and Canada. But it is in South-east Asia that the Chinese diaspora is not only greatest in number, dating back many centuries, but has also been most successful.

Though comprising a minority in every country in the region, bar Singapore, everywhere the ethnic Chinese are the most prosperous single group. In Indonesia, though comprising only 3 per cent of the population, they own 80 per cent of the wealth: similar disparities apply in Malaysia and Thailand.

alaysia and Thaliand. So how can we explain the success of

Next century these children will be among the set,

dest-educated and

most succession people in the world. What makes the contact run?

BY MARTIN JACQUES

the overseas Chinese? It is not easy to generalise across continents and divergent histories. Many of the characteristics displayed by the Chinese – their belief in education, their appetite for hard work, the role of the family – are also true of other migrant groups. However, Wang Gungwu, an eminent historian of the Chinese diaspora, now living in Singapore, argues that the history of the overseas Chinese has imbued their communities with certain traits which distinguish them from other

overwhelmingly from southern China, and regarded by the old, northern dynasties as inferior, they learnt to live in China and then in the countries where they chose to settle by relying on their own resources, never looking to the state for protection or assistance. According to Wang

Gungwu: "Their survival demanded that they had to make adjustments to different cultural circumstances, different political environments and adjust accordingly in order that they could still do business and maintain their living standards, sometimes under very hostile conditions."

Everywhere, when people speak about the Chinese communities, the same words recur: hard-working, pragmatic, adaptable, hard-headed, resilient. Always a minority in usually unfriendly conditions, the overseas Chinese have relied on their own support systems – the family and kinship networks based on their ancestral villages in southern China. Chinese communities boast a plethora of private schools, credit organisations, cultural groups and the like, not to mention those Chinatowns access the world which are

the physical embodiment of that sense of difference and solidarity.

For Wang Gungwu, the glue which coheres Chinese communities even when they are, on the face of it, quite disparate, has something to do with a unique quality of Chineseness. "The sense of Chineseness comes from an identification with the history of China as a distinct area, in which the historical events are well recorded but quite different from everybody else's. It's that long, continuous evolution of particular ways of looking at the world, ways of expressing themselves - in terms of language, literature, art, ceramics, customs and practices, all of which have deep roots and all of which are so different from other cultures."

groups and the like, not to mention those

With the partial exception of South-east
Chinatowns across the world which are

With the partial exception of South-east
Asia, the success of the overseas Chinese
he could have that they could possibly want.

Testimony to that sense of Chineseness that Wang Gungwu describes, the overseas Chinese have been crucial to China's economic growth, supplying around 80 per cent of the inward investment over the past two decades. Unsurprisingly, China's renaissance is not only a source of pride for the overseas Chinese, it is also exerting its own particular spell, as growing numbers of overseas Chinese make the journey to China, often for the first time.

As with migrants from other countries who return to their ancestral homeland, what they discover is often a bewildering and alien environment. Katherine Gin, a

The recent success of the overseas

Chinese, however, has coincided with the

spectacular transformation of China itself.

As with migrants from other countries who return to their ancestral homeland, what they discover is often a bewildering and alien environment. Katherine Gin, a high-flying Chinese-American in her midtwenties, had decided to work in Peking for a couple of years to learn Chinese and discover her Chinese self.

"It certainly didn't feel like a homecoming," she says. "It was a mixed thing. Originally I came to be with people who looked like me, but that surface connection didn't go very far. It's when I am walking round the streets that I most feel like a stranger. But when I am in people's homes, I feel much more at home because the culture is so similar to that of my family back in the States."

Such an ability to deal with different countries and cultures is one of the great advantages of a diaspora. Historically, not quite belonging, being a minority, forever the perennial outsider, was regarded as a distinct disadvantage, but in the era of globalisation where mobility is seen as a virtue, multiple identities are not only more common, they are also a major asset. As Robin Cohen writes in his book Global Diasporas: "In the age of globalisation, their language skills, familiarity with other cultures and contacts in other countries make many members of the diasporas highly competitive in the international labour, service and capital markets."

This is certainly true of the overseas Chinese. Their capacity to operate in different countries and contrasting cultures is an extraordinary facility. Explore the family situation of almost anyone in London's Chinatown, or for that matter in Sheffield's Chinese community, and compared with your average white Briton it is another world: family members are invariably dotted around the world, be it in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Canada, China, Australia or wherever. While we used to follow the flag, they follow the family.

Home can be many different places, cit-

Home can be many different places, citizenship – in contrast to our experience – is an issue neither of principle nor culture but pragmatism. As Zongyu Li, a young Chinese engineer in Silicon Valley told me: "It doesn't matter whether I'm a Chinese or American citizen, we are basically living in a global village."

Or Wei Chao Yi, a businessman who divides his time between Melbourne in Australia and China's Tianjin: "I don't care if I hold a Chinese or Australian passport. It depends on which is most convenient." As it happens both - for the moment - are Chinese citizens.

Chinese citizens.

There has been much fanciful talk of the Chinese diaspora as some new, great multinational power. This is an absurd exaggeration. Nonetheless, it is clear that, especially in the context of China's growing success, the Chinese diaspora could well prove to be one of the great winners of the new millennium.

Proud to be Chinese' is on BBC2 on Wednesday, 16 December at 7.30pm

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is a very recent phenomenon, confined to

the past two or three decades. Before then,

the overseas Chinese were generally near

the bottom of the pile in many of their

adopted countries. Nor was China, one of

the poorest countries in the world, a

Buried deep in the psyche of the col-

lective Chinese memory, of course, is the

glory of the Middle Kingdom, when China

was the epicentre of world civilisation - as

one European monarch found out to his

cost, according to a popular apocryphal

tale. This monarch wrote to the Chinese

emperor proposing a delegation to discuss

trade, and received a rather curt reply,

thanking him for his interest, but saying

that they had everything that they could

source of prestige or self-esteem.



Save songbirds

Sir: The WWF report Doomsday for Wildlife (report, 14 December) is right to call for greater legal protection of Britain's wildlife, yet this alone will not halt the decline in biodiversity. The long-term viability of wildlife populations depends upon a more sustainable use of the farmed landscape and this can only be brought about through reform of agricultural subsidies to place greater emphasis on

environmental stewardship. Declining species such as the water vole and skylark cannot depend solely on the continued management of fragmented "island" reserves, but demand a more hospitable wider" countryside. Throughout Britain local

biodiversity action plans are being developed through the co-operation of statutory and non-statutory organisations. If the targets are to be achieved a massive injection of government and private sector finance must be forthcoming. The time is nigh when each person should ask how much they value the natural world. JAY DOYLE

Biodiversity Projects Officer Surrey Wildlife Trust Pirbright, Surrey Sir. Thank you for your timely articles on our disappearing wildlife, particularly the drastic decline in farmland birds. We have reached this desperate situation by

traditional farming practices. All of us travelling through the countryside pass gapped and mutilated hedges that are mechanically flailed every year to within an inch of their lives. These hedges are cut so low and thin that they provide birds with no cover to protect them from predators and disturbance during nesting.

neglecting to follow

Cutting hedges every year prevents hawthorn, which flowers on year-old wood, from producing berries as food for birds in the winter. In contrast to the "tidy" hedges surrounding most farmland, the tall, thick hawthorn hedge outside my house teems with sparrows, buntings, blackbirds, robins and tits and is beautiful in flower in

summer and fruit in winter. The Government could easily extend the measures that already exist for the protection of trees to our surviving hedges.

If, in addition, we want to help reverse the loss of our ground-nesting birds such as skylarks, plovers and grey Government must resist the unlimited area access demanded by a small militant minority of Right to Roam campaigners. Most people do understand that in order to preserve our wildlife there must be restrictions to prevent disturbance and that unlimited access over the remaining habitat for a selfish few would leave nothing for the rest of us to enjoy in the future. OLIVER FENTON Dewsbury, West Yorkshire

Sir: When the disappearance of songbirds is discussed, why is the balance between them and their natural predators so seldom considered? Factors such as loss of habitat that cause the birds to decrease act only indirectly on their predators.

Our leafy suburb is a relative haven for wildlife. When I moved here 29 years ago, our garden regularly harboured scores of sparrows, two pairs of robins, numerous wrens and always at least two blackbirds and a pair of songthrushes. It was visited by many other species of small birds such as flycatchers, finches and tits.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity

The only small birds that I see regularly now are blue tits. We have a nesting box which they use every year. In this area we now have

foxes, numerous crows, jays, magnies and a pair of kestrels. I sometimes hear screams at night and in the morning find a heap of feathers on the grass where a fox has been. Of the song thrushes that have tried to live here in recent years, the last ones, two years ago. nested in ivy on a tree and had their nest pulled out by a crow. JUDITH PETO Bromley, Kent

Marking 2000

Sir: Professor Ken Pounds (letter, 14 December) was concerned that many of the Millennium Commission landmark projects would have to cut back on their original

All of the 28 major capital projects, each costing more than £30m, are being constructively developed towards realising their original vision. A lot of hard work remains to be done and inevitably projects on this scale will encounter problems. But we are working hard in an effort to ensure their successful completion and are confident that all these projects will be realised.

Although the Millennium Experience is obviously our biggest project, only 20 per cent of our total budget of £2bn has been allocated to it. The bulk of our money has been used to support 187 capital projects. Consequently we devote due attention to these projects, ensuring that they provide lasting benefits to the public throughout the UK. MIKE O'CONNOR. Director

The Millennium Commission London SW1

Sir: Of course the Government wants us to board goods ahead of the millennium ("Move made to halt hearding for 2000", 14 December). How else will it prevent the UK slipping into recession next year? NIGEL WILKINS London SW7

Venice preserved

Sir: I write in response to the Italian Environment Ministry's rejection of the "Moses" barrage proposals for the Venice Lagoon (report, 11 December). The British press has frequently highlighted a lack of environmental awareness in Italy At last the Environment Ministry has taken a stand to favour a long-term environmentally sustainable solution to the problems of Venice over a short-term outdated engineering solution.

Having spent the last five years researching the problems of Venice and its lagoon, I understand the urgency of resolving the problem of flooding but feel that continued emphasis on the barrage has only masked a number of other more up-to-

date and appropriate solutions. Venice lies in a fragile yet constantly evolving coastal environment and the problems facing this famous city cannot be separated from those concerning its 58,000 hectare lagoon (and its 200,000 hectare drainage basin). The lagoon has gradually been altered from what was once a low-energy, shallow coastal lagoon (rarely over 2 metres in depth), to a deep, high-energy, maritime bay (over 15 metres deep in places). Flooding remains just one

issue in a complex network of inter-related problems which must be resolved through a long-term management plan which incorporates principles of morphological restoration (such as restoration of natural

Sir: Any downturn in high

explained by your report

milliou Britons have gone

shopping in New York in

the last couple of months.

estimate would suggest

To offset airfares and hotel

that such shoppers would

probably be spending £500

each in New York shops.

That is some £500m out of

street spending this

Christmas is in part

(12 December) that a

bills a conservative

water depths, the re-creation Perhaps more attention of buffer zones and the return should also be given to local of peripheral areas of the opinion. A survey carried out lagoon to free tidal expansion). by myself in July 1996 showed In the short term, low-cost only 9 per cent of the local population interviewed were flood-proofing measures can be carried out within the urban in favour of the barrage, 68 centres of the lagoon to abate per cent were against and 23 repeated flooding problems, per cent felt they knew too while larger-scale restoration little to comment.

IN BRIEF

Christmas Workers No 3: the post office worker, on the night shift at the Cowley sorting office

plans are under way.

our retailers.

JAN POKORNY

Sir. Brigadier Peter

British forces were

stationed in Bahrain

December) claims that

Sincock (letter, 12

our economy and into the

US one. The remedy, of

course, is in the hands of

At last, funding for research

"serving our own

interests". Whose

interests were being

DAVID CROMWELL

Southampton.

Hampshire

served exactly? Not mine.

Could it have been those of

Britain's arms traders and

other corporate interests

to whom human rights are

be about to escape from the

political and organisational trap in which it has found itself for the last 20 years. ZOSIA MACDOUGALL Grantchester, Cambridge Sir: There is nothing aristocratic about the Dutch prefix "van"

("Landowner puts walkers

and projects to resolve the

problems of Venice and its

monopolised by the barrage

proposals. Venice could at last

lagoon may no longer be

Tom Pilston

gentleman in question's family apparently originated from a place called Hoogstraten; that is

December). It simply

on warpath", 14

means "of". The

MAYKE HOGESTIJN Radnage, Buckinghamshire

Tiny consumers Sir: The Advertising Association does not directly represent advertisers and agencies ("Advertisers help parents beat commercials", 10 December). It is a ' federation of associations representing the advertising industry in its entirety; that includes the commercial broadcast and print media. In this respect, those who call for a ban or further restriction on advertising to children. overlook the disastrous impact that such measures would have on the funding of, for example, children's programming.

The guide we have published is not "a further attempt to fend off the threat of tighter controls on advertising to children." It is an initiative to help parents with the challenges of raising children in a commercial, consumer society, of which advertising is only a part. A restriction on advertising to children would not make parenting any easier, let alone change the nature of the modern world.

Finally, the Independent Television Commission (ITC) is the statutory body responsible for governing TV advertising, not the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC). The BACC was set up and is funded by the industry itself, to ensure that TV advertising is of the highest standard. It vets all advertisements prior to broadcast, based on its own detailed interpretation of the ITC's codes of practice. Like the ITC, the BACC codes include a lengthy and stringent section on children. so that advertising to, or involving, this special audience is particularly responsible. JAMES AITCHISON The Advertising Association London SW1

Sad old man

Sir: I sat down to read John Walsh's article "All our tomorrows" (11December), and felt much comforted by its chatty appraisal of what it feels like to be faced with approaching old age. Yes, I thought, he's got it right; same problems of change of tempo as I am.

in fact I had been thinking almost exactly those same thoughts a few minutes earlier as I jog-trotted home from the hairdresser's. It was necessary to trot as it was too cold to walk, but en route I had cursed my growing awareness of arthritis in my right hip. Too bad that age has to take its

toll in this way. Then I read on. Suddenly my idle appraisal of the article was catapulted out of its languor. I realised that I am almost half as old again as John Walsh, John, wake up! What are you doing, thinking of yourself as becoming old? You are scarcely in the middle years! It sounds as if your attitudes are hardening before your arteries do. Change your outlook and maybe the arteries will last a bit longer

See you in the yellowcurtained day-room, in about 40 years. I shall be 103, you a dapper 85-year-old. CONNIE BURNAGE Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire

Worth a statue

Sir: Ian Jack ("Raise statues to people, not concepts", 12 December) pleads for the vacant Trafalgar Square plinth to be filled with the statue of "an individual human being, a citizen of Britain and its former empire who deserves to be remembered" and makes a number of suggestions.

Would it not be more imaginative, at the close of this bloodiest of centuries, to commemorate the most representative of all the figures of our time: the refugee? One individual human being personifying the untold millions who have been uprooted, assaulted, made homeless and suffered every kind of violence. Perhaps a child.

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March 1

The state of the s

April 19

It is a subject that would win grateful recognition wherever human rights and values are acknowledged. The Very Rev MICHAEL MAYNE KCVO Salisbury

Sir: Leslie Jerman (letter 11

December) asks what the Duke of Cambridge did for us to deserve his statue in Whitehall. Well, as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army for nearly forty years be was the champion of ordinary soldiers, and worked tirelessly to improve their conditions. Although be was labelled a reactionary by some, his defence of the regimented system and resistance to demands for reduction in the Army's strength left Britain better prepared for the First World War than it otherwise would have been. He deserves to be remembered. DONALD FOREMAN The Constitutional Monarchy Association London E4

Towering rage

Sir: Reports of the possible demise of Wembley Stadium's famous twin towers appear to have sparked a peculiarly British storm of protest.

Since my first visit to Wembley as a boy I have visited the stadium four or five. times a year for various sporting and musical events. It holds many happy memories. However, the only outstanding features are the twin towers and (usually) the playing surface. The seating is disgracefully cramped, the toilet facilities are hopeless and the catering worse (not to Those twin towers are unique. But should they stand in the way of the long-needed reconstruction? Of course not.

We have a habit in this country of being strangled by our heritage rather than learning from it whilst preserving the best of it. L. us not drown in nostalgia. STEVEN POWELL London N7

Delicate blooms

Sir: I am beginning to suspect that your gardening correspondent is a couple of panes short of a cloche. Her suggestions for "gifts for green-fingered friends" (12 December) comprised in their entirety: pashmina shawis at £195 each; garden pots(£170 to £430); terracotta pots suitable for decoration only since they have narrow necks and do not withstand frost (£85); herb collections in a basket (£30); sets of bath oil, soap etc (£24.95); young trees (unpriced). I shall looking around my local allotments in the new year for anyone sporting a snazzy shawl. PETER POOL Shipley, West Yorkshire

Collecting other people's holiday snaps for fun and profit

SOMETIMES YOU hear of old photos being sold for a lot of money, but you can also make money from modern everyday photography. The other day, a photograph of me was sold for £50. You don't believe me? I'll tell you the whole instruc-

tive story.

First of all, you must know that I am an art collector, and occasionally go to art auctions. Well, once a year. And it is always the same auction, where by astutely reckiess bidding I have built up over the years a wonderful collection of British photography. The auction

Perhaps it would explain things quicker if I quoted from a letter sent to me this year by my favoured local camera shop, Telescopic Len's. (Not a misprint. The shop is owned by a man called Len.)

"Dear Sir, as you are aware we policy of making customers pay in advance for all development and print work. This was to avoid having large quantities of uncollected holiday photos on our hands. We assumed that people who paid in advance would also take the trouble to collect. As this has only partially worked, we still have a large backlog of uncollected photos which will be auctioned on 10 December at 10am prompt."

I was there, on the dot, in the narrow shopway of Telescopic Len's - closed to the public for the morning - with my catalogue, entitled "A Sale of Important Late 20th Century Photography: A Vital Addition to Our Knowledge of British

Lot 1 was described as "An En-

semble of Photographs Depicting Unknown British Families on Holiday And Elsewhere, But Mostly On Holiday". Lot 2 was marked: "As Description for Lot One". Lot Three was marked: "See Previous Descriptions".

"You will gather from the catalogue," said the auctioneer, addressing us before the sale began, "that these photos would form the basis for a wonderful archive of British life at the end of the millennium. You might deduce that all the lots are roughly similar. Nothing could be further from the truth. Some are highly skilled, some display more of a rough, peasant technique. The locale varies from Spanish beaches to Swiss hillsides, and even to a car park in Munich where that particular photographer was trapped for three days..."



MILES KINGTON

'Lot one. 81 photographs featuring a family with no dress sense, especially the mother'

"Get on with it!" shouted one of my fellow bidders, a man called Graham who - I happen to know - only buys these photos for purposes of blackmail.

'Right," said the auctioneer, blushing slightly. "Lot one. A series of 81 photographs featuring a family with no dress sense, especially the mother. They are seen at home, at birthday parties and on the beach of an unidentified Greek island. What am I bid?"

The auction got underway and the lots fell rapidly under the ham-mer. Most of them fetched no more than £5 or £10, but considering they had all been paid for already, that represented pure profit for Len. and some of them went higher than

"Lot 37 contains assorted black and white photographs of steam engines in Poland or possibly Portugal," said the auctioneer. A man in the corner who had not so far bid suddenly came to life and said '£20!" loudly and stared fiercely at the rest of us. We let him have it for £20. "There's always one steam nut," Graham muttered to me.

And so the auction went on, until we were halted by an extraordinary interruption. There was a hammering at the front door of the shop, and when a member of staff went to see who it was, it turned out to be a Mr Whittaker who had come very belatedly to collect his summer holiday photographs.
"You've what?" he cried. "You've

put my holiday snaps up for sale? But I've paid for them! They're

"Not now," said Len. "If not collected within a month, they belong to us. Anyway, I think they've al. ready been sold. To this gentleman

To my alarm, Mr Whittaker was directed to me. He approached, dangerously red in the face.

"I am very happy to sell your holiday snaps back to you," I said, meaning to be conciliatory. "£15 seem about right?"

"Why you..."
He raised his fist. Then I seemed to see a bright flash of a light. In fact, that's just what it was. A flash bulb. Len had raised his camera and snapped Mr Whittaker on the verge of laying me out.

'One extra lot," said Len cheerfully. "Rare photo of physical violence in my photographic shop. Will алуопе offer me £10?"

I was prepared to go to £30 but eventually went to Mr Whittaker for £50, who paid up and stormed out. Later, Len went haives and gave me £25 of it.

*THE INDEPENDENT

I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

In state pensions there should be no compulsion

THE CONSULTATION document on pensions launched yesterday by Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, marks a step back from the "hard choices" we were promised when Labour were in Opposition. Indeed, they are a very long way from the options considered during the ill-starred social security "partnership" of Frank Field and Harriet Harman after they took power.

Compulsion - legislation to compel citizens to save for their retirement in individual accounts - is no longer to be an option. This is much to the distaste of Mr Field, who wished to see a compulsorily-funded universal scheme to provide pensions, while escaping the stigma and disincentives to work involved in means-testing. Much of the Conservative press has pressed for full privatisation. Mr Darling's opponents will accuse him of a politically-motivated fudge, of splicing together incompatible policies to bodge one incoherent "third way" initiative.

Such critics are wrong, however aesthetically appealing their theoretical castles in the air. Legislating for individual savings cannot escape the fact that it will always ultimately be society as a whole that raises money to care for people in their old age.

If money to stave off such an outcome did not involve means-tested top-up payments to the poorest pensioners, it would have to be paid out under another guise. No one is prepared to see the elderly reduced to penury, and the simple fact is that there are millions who cannot save for their pension, since they just do not earn enough. Even if the low-paid saved all their lives, other taxpayers' money would have to be used to relieve poverty.

Even a semi-private scheme would find it difficult to "top-up" its poorer members. If the economy were to nosedive, or the stock market perform badly over a long period, the responsibility of doing so could prove too much. No government could afford to see such schemes go bankrupt, robbing millions of their savings: if that were threatened, the scheme would be nationalised, and we would be

Nor is it clear that the pensions "crisis", predicted by alarmists, will materialise. Britain is not sitting on the timebomb facing governments on the continent. Her population seems already to have endured much of the increase in average age: Britain's demographic profile, so often cited as the spur to reform, does not show that a rapidly-ageing population will necessitate more and more social spending on the old. In fact, the personal pensions better-off Britons have taken to with aplomb will mean much of the slack will be taken up by the private sector.

Cost has also reined in radical ambitions. Forcing the members of the state's own incomes-related pensions cheme. Serps, to leave en masse would blow a gaping



hole in the Government's finances. Far better to reform Serps as a new "state second pension", a flat-rate rather than earnings-related scheme which encourages those earning below £9,000 a year to save. The Conservatives need more power focused on encouraging those on middling incomes to opt ther down the earnings ladder.

encouraged to save just as will those below them in the Ecclesiastical Committee of the Commons. earnings stakes, and have their National Insurance con-

native, since "radical" solutions are such an illusion.

The bishops don't

out altogether in the late 1980s; this inevitably did not do TO ARGUE over the power of dismissal of church wardens as much as Mr Darling to secure the futures of those fur- may seem a peculiarly arcane form of activity for the House of Commons. Most people have no idea what the role and The poor will thus have a guaranteed retirement powers of church wardens are, never mind that to change income. Those further up the income ladder will be their status requires the approval of something called the

In fact church wardens form a key part of the relationtributions lowered accordingly. Speeding access to "stake-ship between the church and the laity in the parish, elected holder pensions" is also vital, since part of the problem or chosen by the parish council. To make them, as the Comin encouraging people to take on extra pensions is that mons is being asked, subject to hire-and-fire by the bishthey are shrouded in the most incomprehensible jargon. ops is no idle piece of modernisation. It strikes at the heart Spreading the burden between public and private sec- of where the Church itself feels it should stand in tors will be a slow process. But Government has no alter-relationship to the communities it is still supposed to serve as the representatives of the official religion.

If the Church wants to abandon that role, so be it. The time for disestablishment has come, the more so if Dr Carey is allowed his vision of a Church run like Boots the Chemist. Parliament, however, should not allow him to do it by stealth.

A very silly point

THE ENGLAND cricket team's sad defeat in the Ashes series against Australia had a depressing air of inevitability about it. "Australia batted and bowled better than us," the captain. Alec Stewart, told reporters. In the circumstances. this was rather unnecessary. Given the failure of England's tail to stand up to inexperienced bowling and the mediocre sameness of England's bowling, the statement would have brought forth a gust of black laughter had it not been so painfully, tear-jerkingly obvious. England's captain could only have added: and they can catch the ball.

The trouble with Europe is that you have to swallow it whole

MEET TABLOID Tony, scourge of en troops. But in the wake of the Cranbunatics and headbangers". Tone borne debacle, he is in danger of recan be found down at the Dog and Duck on a Friday night musing: "He's maaad, that William Hague. Looney tunes. Barmy army. And another on Europe, rather than to the public. thing - those Tories. They're maaad as well. One short of a six pack."

When Mr Blair adopts undiluted the demotic vocabulary of his spokesman the European monolith made the Alastair Campbell, something is not heart sink a bit. Independence from quite right. It is a sign that the Prime what? No island is an island. We are Minister's usual poise and confidence not independent from Europe: we has deserted him; a flight into the are part of it. The question is on what deceptive certainties of belligerence. Prime Ministers only pay this much air ation to the Leader of the Opposition when they are stuck for anything more substantial to say about their own predicament.

Previously, the Government barely needed to acknowledge the existence of the party opposite. When I watch needs to start making a more positive the rather sad little gaggle clustered around Mr Hague at Prime Minister's Questions, ghostly figures of yester-year who would so palpably like to be somewhere else – indeed be someone, anyone else rather a Tory frontbencher at the end of the 20th century I am not struck by the sheer force of their destructive frenzy. Michael Portillo, chief headbanger in absentia, orbits in political outer space; Peter it all; and Michael Howard - well, where is Mr Howard now you come to mention him?

But Mr Hague at least has the policy he wants and on which he is happy to fight the next election. Opposing the single currency is a cause around which to unite his fractious and shakpeating Old Labour's mistake and addressing himself purely to the Conservative Party, which knows its mind which is still undecided.

His insistence that Mr Blair is sacrificing British "independence" to terms, with what goals and how we should respond when we believe that the Continent's institutions have taken a wrong turn. A decision not to enter EMU does not surgically remove Britain from Europe. It simply changes the nature of our relations with those in the euro zone. Mr Hague argument about Britain's future out-

side the single currency. But Mr Blair has the more pressing Euro problem. He has been forced into a far hastier advance on integration than he would have naturally pursued and is palpably unhappy with the altered state in which his policy finds itself. Until the autumn, Britain was being eased gently into EMU. In the television ads that awful man was striding around his office barking at the staff to "get ready for the euro". The start-up of EMU on 1 January would accustom Britain to the idea of the single currency and could be marketed by such silvertongued salesmen as Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson as "inevitable".

We would be halfway into the euro

for hopes of a Middle East set-

tlement. Israel's next govern-

ment might not do more for

peace; but it could not do less.

NETANYAHU SHOULD not

makes reckless statements

Straits Times, Singapore



MCELVOY

Blair has been forced into a far hastier advance on integration than he would have naturally pursued

before the small matter of a referendum was even raised.

Then along came Oskar Lafontaine, as German Finance Minister. Unlike Gerhard Schröder or Tony Blair, who have succeeded in politics because they mastered the art of not committing themselves. Herr Lafontaine believes that politics should be the clash of great armies, and that if he believes in an integrated European state, he should say so and tell us why. This frankness is the last thing the British government expected.

It opens up too many awkward questions about economic management, taxation and opt-outs and how much diversity the New Europe will tolerate. The SPD's own think-tank, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, has cold feet over Herr Lafontaine's costly plans to reduce German unemploy- to support this development. The Bells of Heaven'

Old Labourite Mr Blair usually crosses the road to avoid. He also happens to hold one of the most influential economic posts within the EU.

The next untenable proposition is that Britain can lead in Europe. It cannot. You cannot lead as the third player, behind a powerful Franco-German alliance, around whose requirements the EU was constructed and who can always tip the balance against Britain. The attempt to sell integration to the British on the grounds that we will have a significant amount of control over what happens next stretches credibility. If Britain is not a strong enough voice to save the duty-free concession on a bottle of gin at Heathrow then it is unlikely to change the philosophy of the new corporatism, nor influence the direction of policy other than in the direction that Bonn and Paris have decided that

it should go. Yet if Britain cannot enjoy the fruits of leadership, the public will rightly ask what the benefits of following are. This turns the beam of attention to the financial terms of £2bn budget rebate is not assured. The EU giveth and the EU taketh away. The rebate was a temporary trade-off achieved by Margaret Thatcher to make her government feel better about about deepening integration, which she aided by being a signatory to the Single European Act.

EU enlargement to the east, Britain can justifiably be asked to cough up has well-developed doubts about the uses to which the EU puts the funds of its contributors is to call for closer involvement in EU management, which means open acceptance of its widening political dimension.

This means tearing up the notion, reiterated hereto by Mr Blair, that EMU is a purely economic project and that we can judge whether it is in our interest on purely balance-sheet terms. Now he has called on his Cabinet to promote stronger pro-European ties and not simply coast along as idle well-wishers.

If the Prime Minister is serious about this new line, supporters of the EMU will have to defend the whole romantic concept of politically unified Europe and argue that the benefits of this dream outweigh the advantages of electoral control and the kind of democratic legitimacy currently enjoyed by Britain. Some believe this to be worth the candle and are happy to put the case. Many more are unconvinced and were far happier with the more cautious model of limited enthusiasm. They will find them-Britain's relations with the EU. The selves called on to support a growing number of measures and ideas about which they have the gravest doubts themselves. That is harder to sustain than one might think.

Many thanks to the hundreds of readers who replied to my request for a source of the poem I mentioned As one of the main supporters of while discussing animal rights last week. In case anyone is still rummaging, it is Ralph Hodgson's 'The

NETANYAHU PUT the latest THE HISTORIC meeting in

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Though Britain may not be the mightiest nation on earth, we can be pivotal." Tony Blair, Prime Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Literature is news that stays news." Ezra Pound, American poet

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

International comment on the current situation in the Middle East

blame the Palestinians when Bank if Arafat declares his The US is sending a clear meshis fanatic foreign minister state. It is obvious that Israel's sage to Israeli leaders that commitment to its agreements calling on Jewish settlers to with the Palestinians will have and that the Israeli premier will grab Palestinian lands, and to be carried through if the have to make a choice. threatens to annex the West peace process is to be served. Jordan Star

there can be no turning back,

accord on hold, in part because of Arafat's continued insistence on declaring a requirement for a public Pales-Palestinian state in May. Clinton's visit has come at a timely moment for him; dogged by impeachment he will enhance also correct in insisting that the his reputation by being seen to Palestinians abide by their be trying to rescue the accord. For all three leaders the visit is a good thing; but whether it will ultimately solve any of their problems remains open. Gulf Times, Qatar

other commitments made at Wye, particularly regarding security cooperation, before handing over any more Israeli

Gaza was rightly regarded by

Netanyahu as fulfilling Israel's

tinian reaffirmation of the path

of peace and coexistence with

territory. The Jerusalem Post, Israel

NETANYAHU IS trying franti- out for an Israeli prime miniscally to appease hardliners by ter who has been catastrophic freezing withdrawal from the West Bank and reneging on the commitment to release political prisoners. Predictably, the Palestinians have responded with further violence. Given Mr Arafat's poor health, and with militant groups like Hamas ridiculing the peace process, their frustration is ur Astandable. But it would still be wiser to observe restraint while the sands run

PANDORA

LAST WEEKEND saw a new flurry of stories about Richard Tomlinson, a former MI6 officer now resident in Switzerland after spending six months in prison for threatening to write about his official spying career. Yesterday Tomlinson told one of Pandora's colleagues that he has ambitious plans for the future, albeit not in a literary vein. He's planning to launch a new "business intelligence" organisation which he wants to call "SPECTRE" - in conscious homage to the fictional spy

delighted in battling. "I might ask David Shayler if he wants to join too," Tomlinson joked, referring to the MI5 renegade. However, in view of Tomlinson's past record for confidentiality. Pandora wonders how many corporations will be keen to entrust Tomlinson with their secret assignments.

network that James Bond

PETER STRINGFELLOW and a bevy of his pneumatic "angels" enlivened the launch party for Rupert Steiner's book My First Break: How Entrepreneurs Get Started on Monday. Stringfellow hosted his own reception for London's Tory Euro-candidates earlier this month at his topless nightclub. That was just the start, Stringfellow told Pandora.

"I am going to throw a big party for Jeffrey Archer when the race for London mayor gets hotter," he said. In the meantime, he confessed: "I have to be careful who I invite, because I am a Europhile. I like Ken Clarke and

Michael Heseltine.' What about the Boy Wonder himself, William Hague? "He won't come down. But I'm sure if he did and spent some time with me. I could do something for his image." Anything that Stringfellow could do might be an improvement at this point.

BACK AT the Rupert Steiner party, the author made a special effort to meet Pandora. The young Sunday Times journalist who boasts of getting his start in journalism by flogging schoolmates to the tabloids went "off the record" to confess some of his early Suddenly he turned to a young lady and

introduced her as. lo and behold. one of his old school friends. "You knew I sold stories about

people at school, didn't you?" Steiner said to her. Looking aghast, she managed to reply: "No, I didn't

actually. Who did you sell

them about?" Steiner became reticent and refused, despite her entreaties, to divulge names. (Incidentally, Pandora has learned that Prince William attended the same school as Steiner. Of course, it's impossible to believe that Steiner would have stooped to selling stories about the future King.)

AFTER A Woolworth's spokesman told Pandora that the retail giant could not offer chocolate British coins because their supplier claimed sterling sweets were "forbidden by law", we spoke to the Royal Mint.

"It is illegal to sell anything that could be mistaken for a real coin," a Mint spokesperson conceded yesterday. "Use of the royal portrait would be out of order. On the other hand, I don't believe we've ever cracked down on chocolate coins in the past."

Good news! While it may be too late for this Christmas, hopefully Woolies will find a supplier willing to mint something more patriotic than chocolate deutschmarks and euros to stuff into next year's Xmas stockings.

PANDORA HAS received an anguished fax from acclaimed songwriter/poet Fran Landesman, a loyal fan of Sir Bob Hope, whose shabby treatment in the current issue of The New Yorker we reported yesterday.

"I will never buy another copy... or see another Woody Allen flick," writes Landesman, referring to the neurotic NY comic's criticism of Sir Bob's twilight career. In a prophetic conclusion, Landesman offered some lines of her own: "The only consolation/ For enduring this sorry situation/ Is if you live long enough/ You may learn/ How the little shits like it/ When it's their turn."

IS CHELSEA Clinton finally rebelling - in her own mute way – against her disgraced father, the famous junk food and cigar oficionado? So it would seem after her

visit to one of Israel's hamburger bars. "She did not want

to eat any meat. I think she is a vegetarian," said the nonplussed owner of burger ioint Al-Lotus, which Chelsea visited while with her parents on this week's Middle East peace

mission. Instead of a hamburger, Chelsea opted for humus, french fries and a cup of Arabic Undiplomatically, she

coffee. ignored the kosher nickles.

Women are Christmas control freaks

WH SMITH and Family Circle magazine have done a Christmas survey which says that someone called "the average female" will buy all the Christmas food and drink, write and send all the cards, buy and wrap all the presents and do the washingup. The only contribution that men are likely to make, the survey says, is ferrying around relatives and carving the turkey.

About 4 per cent of men will write cards and/or wrap presents. In addition the cost of something called the "average family Christmas" is predicted to be £935, and the two celebrities most women would most like to have round for Christmas are Sir Cliff Richard and Delia Smith.

This survey is irritating for several reasons. The very idea of the "average female" is odd, the cost of almost £1,000 is too high and the belief that men can only sharpen a knife and call out "Honey, I'm home" is something out of a Sixties sitcom.

Finally, can it be true that anyone would really want Delia sitting at their table, patiently explaining exactly how to go about unfolding their serviettes ("Pick it up, off the table, off the table now...")?



ANN Treneman

You see these men in the supermarkets...God knows what happens if they take home the wrong crackers

Actually, I take that back, because it is clear that Adrian Rogers of the Family Institute might be mad enough to want this. He loves this survey and sees it as a nature/nurture thing: "A happy woman is often a home-maker, and there is nothing more fulfilling than making Christmas for her family. Men are huntergatherers, slouchers, cads and

an older generation but that "some older women have learned to love

This is tosh. Women may do a lot of extra work at Christmas, but they do it not out of love or because of some innate sense of home-making. They do it because they want to be in control. If you ever want to see a group of women go into anecdote overload, ask them whether they would allow their men to be completely in charge of any part of Christmas. By this I do not mean tell the men what to do and supervise them every step of the way. I mean have the men organise, prepare and complete any one task.

The main reaction to this is incredulity. Cards? "Oh my God, be'd never buy them/write the correct message/know who to send them to/find the addresses..." Tree? "Only if you want the wrong size/kind/ornaments/tinsel..." Dinner? "Well, the last time he went to the supermarket alone he came back with some After Eights and a bottle of wine. Christmas dinner is simply not a possibility..." Presents?... Eyes roll round and round.

Rayner says that the survey reflects OK, then, wrap the presents? "What and have everyone get their gift in a carrier bag...

This is why at Christmas lots of women think that the only good man is one who is carrying a list - and following it to the letter. You see these men in supermarkets, frantically looking from list to shelf just to quadruple-check that they are not making a mistake. God knows what happens to them if they come back with the wrong Christmas crackers but it's obviously pretty bad. They look terrified as they scurry from task to task. Hunter/gatherer indeed. More like a rabbit caught in the headlights.

This situation gets worse every year, because every year the myth of the perfect Christmas gets more elaborate. It used to be that we all wanted to recreate our childhood Christmas. Our blueprint was a family one. Now we take our lead from the media, which is happy to give us an ever higher mountain to climb. Open any women's magazine for proof. We need to make our own wreaths, create our own seasonal pot-pourri etc. The article in this month's Family Circle on "25 ways to survive Christmas" actually creates 25 new things to worr about. It tells us the correct way to send cards, order the turkey, prepare the tree, entertain the children, obtain the hamper, order a fog machine (yes, it's the kind of thing

average families do, evidently). Finally, there is this suggestion: "If you always forget anyway, give yourself the gift of Total Recall - a service that rings to remind you of 10 important birthdays and anniversaries a year. The de have version ensures that you are nagged every day leading up to the event." Just what we all want: a professional nag.

It is scary that some people might actually think this is a good idea and even a helpful one. But then most of us have bought the myth. We believe that there is a right way to celebrate Christmas and we believe that the only people capable of organising this properly are women. But it's not true. Men can do Christmas too. At least I think they can. OK, maybe they might need a few pointers. Or perhaps a list. Perhaps we should do the cards. And the tree. And the presents. But they can do the washing up. Can't they?

Wisdom doesn't change with the passing of the years

I AM about to become invisible. It hasn't quite happened yet, but bit by bit, step by step, year by year, I am ceasing to exist. On buses, on trains, in the street, people already walk passed as if I am not there. In queues, in shops, in restaurants, people look straight through me. Those who know me, know me. Are aware of my existence. But strangers are no longer seeing me.

When I come across groups, outside William Ellis school after my walk on Hampstead Heath, or catching up other football supporters on my way to White Hart Lane, they don't stand aside, don't move to let me through. I do not enter their consciousness. And why should I. At the age of 62, I am neither a threat, nor an attraction. I am not a force to be reckoned with

The young and the young middle aged, male or female, are noticed. They are eyed up, fancied, liked, disliked, criticised, rated, graded, Someone out there has always registered their presence.

But with age, we all begin to fade. In every sense. In three years time, if and when I get to 65, I will probably have completely disappeared. That could be fun. I'll ring MI6 and

offer to be a spy. One of the pluses of being over 60 is that if you look reasonably clean, appear reasonably civilised, you can walk in and out of anywhere. Because you are not seen, you are not stopped.

You can go into the poshest of hotels, use their facilities. Float past the security desk of a major company. have a meal or drink in their subsidised canteen. Oldies are not suspected. If MI6, in their stupidity, have an age limit and turn me down, then a burglar. Burglaring could also be fun. We should all be prepared, so we are told, for career changes.

If, please God, I do get to 65,

DAVIES Almost all of the people

I interviewed, all born in 1900. didn't think much of what we call progress though my knee is awfully sore

HUNTER

today, and my arthritic toe is giving me gip, and I keep going to, say, 75, then 85, then wow, I could reach the age of 90. Something strange is visible again. Over the last two years, I have

been talking to people aged 96, 97 and 98 for my book, Born 1900 (Little Brown, £16.99). Remarkable, even today, to reach that great age, but even more remarkable to be fit and well, mentally and physically.

Most were in their own homes, usually with a son or daughter near by to keep an eye on them. Two were even driving their own cars. One was still working. They had survived two World Wars, seen many things. All of them had a presence.

My father-in-law, who had inspired the project, because he too had been born in 1900, never told people his age until he got to 90. From then on he boasted, as I would. He spoke his mind, told people off. In the nursing home, he would tell nurses they were getting fat, or had a spot on their chin, as if they didn't know. They would laugh at his cheek, amused by him, tell others about him, and his age. He could get away with anything.

In his sixties, he'd probably become invisible. Now, in some ways, he was not just visible, but larger than he'd been in his life. He demanded, he was attended to, people were aware of him. He had become

I'm looking forward to that. I have gone through life hardly ever giving offence, rarely speaking out, never having arguments, which of course is suitable and fitting for someone of my age now, about to dis-appear. If and when I re-emerge as a real Oldie. I hope to become a Character - to be reckoned with.

On the other hand, I will probably start moaning about the Modern World, which I haven't done, so far. Almost all of the 25 I interviewed, born in 1900, didn't think much of what we like to consider progress. They didn't like the speed of life, the stresses, the traffic, our materialism, our greed, our tack of courtesies, our cruelty, our obsession with sex.

The latter particularly upset them. When I tried to get on to their own sex life, they refused to answer. A shame, really, but that was the age in which they lived, when such things were not discussed. I was surprised to find they had all come from large families, but went on to have small families. Just like the Queen Mother, also born in 1900. She was one of 10, but had only two children. The average for my 25 was 1.6. Coutraception was hardly known in the Twenties, when they were giving birth, so what did they do? "Withdraw," so one old bloke told me. Then he took it back, not wanting such a thing mentioned in the book.

They did admit modern medicine was a good thing, as several had had End stage, didn't even think our new hips and other bits, and yes, they morals had got worse, not even



The Queen Mother is nearly a centenarian

did enjoy the radio and TV. But sexual morals. In every age, there apart from that, they could see lit- are moral standards. They do tle else in modern life which was a definite improvement. Cars, computers, Concorde, the Internet, have they really increased the sum of human happiness?

Human aspirations, so several explained, had stayed very much the same. We want to find a partner, be happy, have a roof over our heads. enough to eat, bring our children up decently. These are the concerns most people had in 1900, and will in 2000. Yes, all pretty obvious, but still pretty wise.

One of the women, Mary Ellis, once famous in films and on the West

change, but most people try, roughly, to follow those standards, satever they are. And the proportion following them, or not following them, is probably much the same. Which means you should try not to condone or criticise standards from another age.

"People don't change," she said. 'Only the music changes."

I had to think about that, but decided it was jolly wise, probably even true. I do hope I become wise. as well as visible, when I get into my

Independent Christmas Appeal for the elderly: Review, page 8

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CAPPUCCINO COFFEE MAKER OFFER. The findings indicate that the grandparents in the study were a valued source of

assistance, particularly in their role as baby-sitters. However, while families expected grandparents to provide support, they were not to "interfere" in the lives of their children and grandchildren. All generations believed interference caused tension and impinged on the autonomy of the nuclear family. The findings indicate that the

expectations and parameters. Estimates indicate that 70 per cent of people in the United Kingdom become grandparents and that many remain in this role for around 25 years, or one third of their life span. This suggests that grandparenthood is an important part of family life both as a personal experience and because of its

impact on others. Recent research indicates that grandparents are in frequent contact with their children and grandchildren and that they act as important support agents within the

THIS PAPER explores family. Earlier research took a grandparents' relative more negative view, warning of influence in family life. the tendencies of grandparthe tendencies of grandparents to interfere in the upbringing of children, either by being too indulgent or too strict and old-fashioned. This highlights the fact that grandparents' involvement in family life is mediated by the intervening parent generation. Grandparents face a margin-alised role within the family, as well as a role with poorly defined rights and duties

The grandparents in the study were in frequent contact grandparent role requires with their families, although careful negotiation to define time spent with grandchildren tended to decline as the children became teenagers. Grandparents played an active role in family life, and parents valued their help and advice, particularly for their role as baby-sitters. While such support was expected of grandparents, all three generations felt that they should not "interfere" in their children's and grandchildren's lives. This was particularly salient in relation to grandchildren's upbringing. where parents viewed rules and decisions as outside the grandparents' sphere of influences. For example, grand-



PODIUM JILL TUNALEY From a speech by a

University of Newcastle lecturer to the British Psychological Society Conference

parents often disagreed with parents about the content of television programmes teenagers were allowed to watch or about the amount and the type of freedom teenagers were allowed outside the home. Attempts to impose these opinions on parents and grandchildren caused conflict within the family and were classed as

In order to avoid tension.

attempted to negotiate relationships which were mutually supportive but which provided the nuclear family with space and privacy. They described this in terms of not "living in each other's pockets". Many grandparents viewed

their marginal position in the family as positive because they were able to enjoy spending time with their grandchildren without having primary responsibility for them. "Not interfering" was the final part of the parenting process, giving adult children the freedom to make their own decisions and to raise their families in their own way.
Other grandparents avoided

interfering because they did not want to be a "nuisance" or a burden to their families. This sentiment was particularly expressed by widowed grandparents (who were usually women), who had a greater sense of reliance on their families than those whose partners were still alive.

The concept of grandparental interference has implications for intergenerational relationships both now and in the future. Grandparents and both grandparents and parents parents must learn to balance

conflicting regarding support versus interference and to negotiate these expectations within their families. Decreasing birth rates and smaller family size in Western societies mean that there are fewer members in each generation and so intergenerational relationships may becom more important.

Grandparents may have more time to devote to smaller numbers of grandchildren, but they will have to balance this with the expectation of noninterference. Increasing divorce rates are resulting in a greater variety and complexity of family relationships, including those of stepgrandchildren and stepgrandparents. This

creates privacy issues. The flexible but unpaid child care that many grandparents provide is likely to become increasingly valuable as more women with children choose to work outside the home. The challenge that will face families in the future will be to balance grandparents' involvement in a full-time childcare role

with the maintenance of space and houndaries of space and boundaries between generations.

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SDAY REVIEW

And they called it peace



Robert Fisk

Arafat has been emasculated, and has sacrificed any chance of bargaining over the Palestinian charter

THERE WAS a dreadful, telling moment during the latest Middle East theatricals. when President Clinton shared a Sunday press conference with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. The American President had urged the Palestinians to abandon those clauses in the Palestinian charter which call for the destruction of Israel. Already, Yasser Arafat had arranged the very show of hands which the Israelis and Americans had demanded. Then suddenly - without any prior warning - Mr Netanyahu produced a new "condition" which the Palestinians would have to meet if Israeli troops were make a further scheduled withdrawal om occupied Arab land on Friday: Mr Arafat would have to publicly abandon any plan to declare a Palestinian state next May.

Mr Clinton was silent. His face mirrored not perplexity but hopelessness. He had just promised Israel that he would ask Congress to give it a further \$1.2bn to help Israel's "security" during the final stages of the "peace process". But he said nothing. If he realised amid his own personal crisis that the Israelis were torpedoing any hope of peace in the Middle East, he did not reveal it. The Israelis had simply produced one more "condition" which was supposedly included in the Wye agreement - itself a restatement of all the unfulfilled promises of the 1993 Oslo agreement - and the Americans went along with it. Then the Israelis said that Arafat must also halt all ent demonstrations. This too, we were il was part of the Wye agreement.

It was nothing of the sort. There are no sentences, clauses or paragraphs in the Wye treaty which forbid Arafat from declaring a Palestinian state, any more than there are prohibitions on demonstrations, however riolent. But Wye was so dishonest a document - so humiliatingly accepted by Arafat and his cronies - that it scarcely matters.

"You did a good thing today in raising your hands..." Clinton told the obedient members of the Palestine National Council who were merely reiterating what they had already said four years ago. No one asks more whether the conditions set by the aelis are actually written into the Oslo or Wye agreements. "Palestinian compliance," as Mr Netanyahu's sookesman David Bar-Ilan puts it - note that word "compliance" - has become part of the rubric of this forlorn "peace process".

Now Mr Netanyahu's domestic political crisis is produced as a reason for Israel's refusal to abide by the peace accords - as if it is quite normal for a nation-state to break solemn signed agreements with a third party when its prime minister has perproblems with his ministers. Israel



Peace-keeping in the occupied territories: Israeli soldiers and police wrestle to the ground a protesting Palestinian

has long complained - and rightly - that peace treaties with Arab states might prove worthless if regimes changed and then chose to disavow the undertakings of their predecessors. But when Israel does just this, it is seen as a natural, if regrettable, course of events.

In reality, Arafat has now been emasculated. To keep America's friendship and secure Israel's next microscopic retreat, he has sacrificed any chance of bargaining over the Palestinian charter. He cannot allow Palestinians to demonstrate against the doomed "peace" process unless their protest turns violent. He cannot demand a Palestinian state. He cannot demand even a part of Jerusalem as his capital - Mr. Netanyahu having stated (without a murmur of dissent from Mr Clinton) that Jerusalem is the "unified and eternal opponents with the assistance of the CIA.

So what of the Palestinian leader who has so shamefully accepted this totally lop-sided agreement, who has smothered any aspiration to freedom and democracy in his putative "state", whose cruel secret policemen now murder suspects on whim or - how symptomatic of their carelessnessby mistake. Egged on by the CIA experts who now measure his battle against "terrorism", the chairman of the Palestinian Authority has now turned his would-be state into a typical Middle East dictatorship.

He ignores his 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council. He pays no attention to the laws they have passed. He bans books Edward Said, the distinguished Palestinian professor at Columbia University, is merely one of his latest victims). A poll taken by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies suggests that Palestinians believe democracy and human rights are better respected in Israel that in "Palestine". I still remember how Arafat boasted to me in Beirut in the dark days of the early 1980s that his nation was "a democracy among the guns". But what he has created in the West Bank and Gaza Strip - those pathetic slivers that he would call a "state" - is a grotesque version of the gunman's fiefdom which he ruled in Lebanon 20 years ago.

True, he is a deteriorating man. His brain tumour - following his air crash in Libya has left him with a palpable shake in the right hand that looks suspiciously like the onset of Parkinson's disease. He may not be so quick to shuffle off the mortal coil as other Arab leaders - the cancer-riven King Hussein of Jordan, they say, may be with us for only another two or three months but Arafat let slip a remark last week that

in two years' time, someone else may be Palestinian leader. Chosen, the cynics said at once, by the Israelis.

Yet what do Arafat's opponents elsewhere in the Arab world have to offer? All the anti-peaceniks of Palestine met in Damascus last weekend to condemn the vote of the Palestine National Council. But when delegates called for the setting up of a rival PLO, Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine - the sanest of the anti-Arafat league - opposed the motion and called for further political action in the occupied territories. He was howled down by infuriated Palestinian radicals shouting for "unity".

So what are we left with after the latest deplorable charade in the Middle East? A powerless Clinton, to be sure, too frightened, too lacking in concentration to dare criticise Netanyahu or do more than say that Palestinians should "determine their own destiny on their own land". Even if Netanyahu were to allow such a development - which he won't - Arafat would never permit it. True, Clinton was the first American president to visit Palestinian-controlled land. But he originally intended to land Air Force One in Gaza. The moment the Israelis suggested this might imply statehood, the leader of the world's only superpower meekly agreed to

fly in from Tel Aviv by helicopter. In a real battle of wits between equal partners, Arafat might have made a few Netanyahulike conditions to the Israelis: no continuation of the "peace process" unless Israel renounced its exclusive claim to Jerusalem as a capital (which precludes next May's

final status talks as surely does a Palestinian declaration of a state); no more Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land in contravention of UN resolutions and international law: no more negotiations until Netanyahu ends Jewish settler attacks on Palestinians. But of course. Arafat would not do that - and America would not talk to him if he did.

So what was the surprise when Clinton, Arafat and Netanyahu ended their summit yesterday without any signs of the success proclaimed by the US government? Oslo and Wye destroyed any Palestinian hope for a just peace. Israel was allowed to build more Jewish settlements on Palestinian land, confiscate Palestinian identity papers, demolish Palestinian homes. And Arafat for perhaps 14 per cent of the land of "Palestine" - had to promise to protect the Israelis who were building the settlements, confiscating the paper and demolishing the

And they called it peace.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HUGH **MORISON**



The director general of the Scotch Whisky Association responds to our call for the end of duty-free shopping

LAST WEEK common sense overcame macho political posturing when European leaders recognised that their decision, taken seven years ago, to end EU duty-free was gravely damaging in the

current economic climate. The call for a review into the economic impact of abolition offers hope to the 140,000 people whose jobs are at risk - more than 1,000 in the UK.

When the abolition decision was taken, it was anticipated that excise duties in Europe would be harmonised into a single market. However. today we have 15 member states each with its own tax regime, all of which discriminate against Scotch whisky and other spirits.

Duty-free is popular with travellers. It provides a valuable showcase for a wide range of prestige products. Contrary to The Independent's editorial, it is not a subsidy by the non-travelling public, a point reinforced by the Government's assessment that ending duty-free for alcoholic drinks would not increase excise receipts.

The European Commission says the greatest threat to Europe at present is unemployment. Yet they have made no assessment of the impact of abolishing duty-free, in spite of unanimous calls for a review by the European Parliament.

The commission has an alarmingly short timeframe in which to carry out the full and comprehensive study that is required. It is vital that any report be the result of an objective assessment.

Above all, if the commission truly believes that there is no place in a single market for duty-free, then it must not simply remove a popular and valuable trade, increasing social security costs across the EU. It must deliver a genuine single market in which there is no duty discrimination between alcoholic drinks.

Tunnel at end of the light

RUSSIA IS, to put it mildly, a confusing place. Never has it been so easy to be suffocated by such a surfeit of facts combined with such lack of clarity. In order to grasp the nature of the Russian beast, it may be simpler to keep your For the old USSR, it is safe to stick

with The Russians, Hedrick Smith's superb chronicle and the best of a series of journalistic accounts that explored all the vivid contradictions of the Brezhnevite superpower. The union's colapse was represented by an equally brilliant book - Lenin's Tomb, by David Remnick, the former Moscow correspondent of The Washington Post and now editor of The New Yorker. I wrote a well-received book on the same period, with some overlapping material, but it is not half as powerful as Remnick's vibrant analysis-cum-reportage. Lenin's Tomb deservedly won the Pulitzer Prize.



WEDNESDAY BOOK

RESURRECTION: THE STRUGGLE FOR A NEW RUSSIA

BY DAVID REMNICK, PICADOR, £20

As for the third act of the drama - the post-Soviet fallout, with all its implications - there have been various attempts to pull the literary sword from the stone. Many of these books have been enlightened and interesting - on crime, the economy, the nationalists or Kremlin power-plays. But none has had the must-read quality of The Russians or Lenin's Tomb. The acknowledged successor to those two titles remains a sit vac. But Remnick has attempted to fill the gap himself, in a follow-up with the

Tolstoyan title of Resurrection. Sequels are a notoriously dangerous

business. Hedrick Smith himself tried it, with a Gorbachev-era book called The New Russians. The general consensus not a patch on volume one. But Remnick theories, while providing detailed behind-the-scenes accounts of key

moments in recent Russian history.

Above all, what brings Resurrection alive is Remnick's ability to illuminate the broader picture with individual tableaux. He gives devastating examinsider detail on the vodka-driven madness of Yeltsin's policy-making, especially on Chechnya; the burgeoning crime and violence; the grotesque contrasts between stinking rich and dirt poor.

He does not, however, fall into the common trap of believing that each of these truths automatically makes up the whole truth. As he notes, many Russians "mistake transition and change for apocalypse. The older the man or woman, the more likely it is that they suffer from anti-euphoria". Younger generations, by contrast, foresee at least the possibility of change.

Remnick is not an out-and-out optimist: "The creation of capitalism on the ash-heap of history has not been a pretty sight." But he points out that the absolute pessimists are also sometimes unrealistic. The failed coup of 1991 "so accelerated our notion of Russian history that expectations became outlandish; and now that many of those expectations have been disappointed, deferred and even betrayed, it seems as if we have gone back to expecting only the worst from Russia."

Times have really changed, he argues. "Russia has entered the world, and everything, even freedom, is now possible." The afterword was written before the Russian economic crisis this summer. Reality may, therefore, appear to have made his more upbeat predictions seem outdated.

Yet what is most striking about conversations with young Russians today is how few of them contemplate, even for a moment, a return to the comfortis a skilled navigator in tricky waters. able certainties many of their parents He is admirably wary of conspiracy and grandparents yearn for Remnick concludes: "If business can advance in a way that begins to benefit more than a few Moscow tycoons, if Yeltsin finally fades away in a peaceful transition of power, then Russia will move further down the road toward becoming what so many of its people have hoped for for ples of the reasons to be pessimistic: so long: to be part of the world, to be a normal country." That may seems a long line of big ifs - but a lot of big ifs have

become real in recent years. As a coda to Resurrection, the new issue of Granta (Russia: the Wild East, Penguin, £7.99) is a mosaic of pieces about the country's disturbed legacy. There are testimonies from the land of the Gulag, a Chechen mother's search for her son, Colin Thubron with pilgrims and scientists in Siberia, Vitali Vitaliev on vodka, Orlando Figes on reburying the tsar. It is full of unsettling one-liners, as in the reminiscences of a Gulag official: "Life in Norilsk was better than anywhere else in the Soviet Union. In the first place, all the bosses had maids, prisoner maids. Then the food was amazing." And the prisoners? "They did not bother anyone - they just worked and worked. They were slaves."

For Andrei Cheburkin, that was normality. He sounds slightly surprised that anybody might see things differently. At the end of the collection, you are left with a lingering sense of wistfulness, and endless confusion - in short, a fitting Russ-

STEVE CRAWSHAW



Wednesday Poem

SUSPICION OF REPORTERS BY KEN SMITH

> Help she was howling over and over, a long call in fire and he: he was scribbling help me I'm burning, his mind's eye

setting angle, speed, distance, closing the shutter, the bright ring of strangeness around things forming the frame of her burning.

He wrote Nor could I save her. he that was chronicler, eve of events at their centre. As she in her death was, as this is.

Our poems today and tomorrow mark Ken Smith's 60th birthday and come from his new collection, 'Wild Root' (Bloodaxe, £7.95)

Alla Shelest

dancer, sensitive and delicate. A star of the Kirov Ballet during the Forties and Fifties, she possessed the gift of being able to live the role she was portraying, and she was blessed with a physical grace and allure that was utterly captivating.

Alla Jakovlevna Shelest was born in 1919, at Smolensk. A favourite pupil of Yelisaveta Gerdt who taught her from the age of 15, she later came under the influence of Agrippina Vaganova. Graduating from the Leningrad Choreographic Academy in 1937, she was immediately accepted into the Kirov Ballet, with whom she danced solo roles from the beginning. In fact, she was dancing leading roles even before graduating. Her first big part was in Leonid Lavrovsky's Katarina (Rubinstein). There followed other important parts in Boris Fenster's Maskarade (Laputin) and Vakhtang Chaboukiani's Othello (Machavariani).

Her brilliant career developed spasmodically, with a plan for heroic roles from Russian literature, for which her histrionic gifts ideally equipped her. The maestro Fyodor Lopokov described her as "a heroic ballerina in the romantic mould, whose deep emotional powers could draw like a magnet". At the same time he considered her one of the most unlucky ballerinas of his experience. She was frequently dogged by misfortune, ill-health and breakdowns. Her first husband was Yuri Grigorovich; her second was a musician from Moldavia. Throughout her career she was confronted with fierce opposition; yet, despite the setbacks and frustrations, she enjoyed remarkable periods of ecstatic acclaim. Such was her local fame that audiences queued for days when the news was leaked that she would dance.

Shelest cultivated an effortless classical technique; yet she was not confined to the classical repertoire. In such ballets as Mikhail Fokine's Egyptian Nights (Arensky), in which she was Cleopatra, or as Zarema in Rostislav Zakharov's Fountain of Bakhchiserau (Asafiev), as Siumbike in Leonid Jacobson's Shuroli (Yarulin), or in Boris Aifman's Guyana (Khachaturian) she brought to her portrayals an Eastern exoticism that was ravishing.



Audiences queued for days to watch her dance. Fyodor Lopokov called her 'a heroic ballerina in the romantic mould', albeit a most unlucky one

Her repertoire was vast and diverse, and her flawless technique. musicality and perfection of line brought matchless renderings of the classics; Odette-Odile in Swan Lake, the Lilac Fairy in Sleeping Beauty, both Giselle and Myrtha in Giselle, Raymonda, Nikia in La Bayadère, Street Dancer in Don Quirote, and Princess in The Little Hunch-backed Horse. She danced the entire repertoire, including Le

Flames of Paris, Stone Flower, and Cinderella. The list is endless, but by some quirk of fate, she was most often second, third or fourth cast, thus missing the réclame of firstnight success; furthermore, she was not included in the Kirov tours abroad, and was consequently deprived of a certain international recognition.

Before the curbs restricted her fame, and her freedom to travel, she made some appearances in London during the early Fifties. She danced a pas de deux at the Empress Hall, during a political convention, and gave some concert performances at the Scala Theatre and Festival Hall. I had the good fortune to see her dance excerpts from Giselle and Romeo and Juliet and was enchanted by her expressive eloquence. She was frailer than Galina Ulanova, yet in some measure she had similar qualities.

At one period she appeared in Jacobson's Choreographic Miniatures, dancing in Eternal Idol, and a ballet based on Rodin's The Kiss. One of her most poignant creations was The Blind Girl, which only she could dance. If she was sometimes distressed by the intrigues that held her in thrall, she was also uplifted by the plaudits of celebrated colleagues. Vaganova called her "a talented ballerina-actress", Tatiana Vecheslova a leading ballerina said:

"She is the biggest artist of our time." The supreme Ulanova, 10 years her senior, wrote of her: "She has a huge inner culture; she is a ballerina of tragedy and inspiration. For me she brings a new tract to every role

Valeri Panov, who partnered Shelest in some concert performances in Moscow in 1962, wrote this:

Despite her age and mannerisms She-lest immediately showed her powerful, intensely personal vision, that rarest ballet gift. If the circumstances had been right for her, she would have been even more important, to the degree that she was more profound in every role, than Ulanova. A strong individualist in her art and personal life, she would not have her improved that the her improved the structure of the her improved the structure. take her "proper" place in the Kirov's magnificent scheme of things. She was a dramatic force upon whom a whole generation of ballerinas, including Maya Plisetskaya, modelled themselves.

In 1953 she became an Honoured Artist of the USSR; in 1957 Peoples' Corsair, The Bronze Horseman, Artist, and in 1947 and 1951 she was



From 1967 to 1976 she was Ballet Mistress at Kuibishey, and, after further travels, she taught at the Leningrad Choreographic Academy and at the Conservatory. It was said, however, that teaching was not her métier, she was too introvert, too individual.

I met her for the last time in the spring of 1992, when we sat together on a jury at the Diaghilev Contest for Young Dancers, held at the

nominated for a State Laureateship. Tchaikovsky Salle in Moscow. By the St Petersburg dance scene now she was frail and had recently her unique gifts will never be forgotten. suffered a stroke, but was still active and full of enthusiasm. She was delighted when I recalled my memories of her glorious dancing of 40

> a spasm of joy to her sad face. She was a goddess of the dance who did not receive all that was her due. However, in the annals of 1996

years before when she appeared in

London. That I remembered her so

vividly after so many years brought

JOHN GREGORY

Alla Jakovlevna Shelest, dancer. choreographer and dance director: born Smolensk, Russia 26 February

John Gregory died 27 October

Petersburg 7 December 1998.

Nigel Kent-Lemon

NIGEL KENT-LEMON was the outstanding analyst of casino gambling in Britain, with an international reputation for good judgement and independent thinking. In style, he was quiet, humorous and always unassuming, despite an encyclopaedic knowledge of gambling and all the personalities who ran it, world-wide.

His expertise extended beyond casinos, where he had first-hand experience as managing director of Coral's operation in London and later formed his own casino group, City Clubs Limited, which included Maxim's in Kensington, London. He was also closely involved in horseracing. From 1991 he was chairman of Lingfield Park racecourse in Surrey, and was an enthusiastic supporter of Sunday and all-weather racing. He was thrilled to be invited earlier this year to join the Tote Board, where he saw an opportunity of helping the sport he knew from the inside.

Kent-Lemon was not at all typical of the casino owners and managers he knew so well. He trained as an accountant, but he became fascinated by the network of economic enterprise which casinos represent in the modern world.

He spent a period in management consultancy before joining Coral's Casinos in 1973, aged 27. He set up a chain of provincial casinos, in Bournemouth, Plymouth, Manchester, Liverpool and Brighton. In 1978 he became deputy managing director of Coral's London casino operation, with responsibility for two of the most celebrated casinos in Mayfair, Crockford's and the Palm Beach.

When most of the Coral casinos were acquired by Lonrho in 1980, Kent-Lemon left to start his own consultancy, N.K.L. Services Limited So 🌓 many people in the gaming indus-try in Britain and abroad sought his advice that this project proved almost too successful, in terms of the 1919; twice married; died St amount of work he had to put in. In my experience as a journalist, I found his judgements, without exception, correct.

Although he wrote sparingly he made regular contributions to the international conferences organised by the University of Nevada. In Britain he was an active member of the Society for the Study of Gambling.

In 1990 Kent-Lemon ventured into casinos on his own account, as chairman of City Clubs Limited, The published record of his par- City occasions he was invariably im- which bought Maxim's and later ternational Apprentice Competiticipation is long and honourable, but maculate in short black coat, waist- purchased two other London casinos, tion, 1962-70 and was a member of it cannot show the invaluable sup- coat, and striped trousers: his Chester's in Soho and the Golden buttonhole often sported a rose or | Horseshoe in Queensway. At carnation from his own garden. His Maxim's he was wrily amused at the extravagant style of the late Robert of documents as an aid to speedy | Maxwell, who made a great noise and liked to play two roulette tables at the

> During the course of Kent-Lemon's management, these thre casinos were remodelled and en him from military service in 1939-45. hanced. As a result the original investment of £24m was realised for £50m when they were sold to David Elmer Woodbine Parish, Ladbroke's in September 1994.

He travelled widely to consult on casino projects and frequently director, Holliday and Greenwood visited the United States, where he 1937-59, chairman and managing served as co-chairman of the director 1953-59; chairman, Bovis | Institute of the Study of Gambling 1959-66; CBE 1964; Chairman, City and Commercial Gaming in Reno and Guilds of London Institute and was a visiting senior lecturer 1967-79, Life Vice-President 1979-98: in Gaming Management at the University of Nevada.

His flair for public speaking combined with his open-minded and well-informed background made him a popular speaker and lecturer. Mutual Life Assurance Society | Whenever the initials N.K.L. were 1971-86, deputy chairman 1976-86; listed at a conference or seminar, the audience knew it was in for a

Through his support of GamCare, a charity formed to help problem gamblers in Britain, he also took a lead in encouraging the gaming industry to accept a measure of responsibility on the social welfare side of the business.

Above all, in a semi-academic role, he made an invaluable contribution in helping to train up-andcoming recruits to the industry. He believed that raising the standard of management in the casino industry was the key to its future success. He made a start on this work as chairman of the Centre for the Study of Gambling at Salford University, which opened in 1995.

Though in his working life Kent-Lemon studied the green baize of the gaming tables, in his private life he liked the greensward of the country, in pursuits such as shooting and stalking, and also golf. He was blessed with a happy marriage. Despite his unexpected heart trouble, he felt that he had been privileged to lead a full life and had done everything he wanted. His only wish was to see his two teenage sons grow up.

Nigel William Kent-Lemon, casino consultant: born Southborough, (one son, two daughters): died off Harefield, Middlesex 11 December

Sir David Woodbine Parish

DAVID WOODBINE Parish would introduce himself to strangers with tect, but I am a builder". Both literally and metaphorically, this statement was true. He was a practical, working member of the building industry, and beyond this he was a builder of opportunities of doing good to others. He was a well-known figure in the City of London for more than 40 years - his involvement there and beyond many-faceted. His charitable service extended to technical education including medical education, to hospitals. to the welfare of the elderly, and to church music.

Woodbine Parish saw his widespread voluntary activities as a way of acknowledging and returning thanks for his privileged background and upbringing. He was property proud of his descent from Sir Woodbine Parish. Knight Commander of the Order of Hanover - a diplomat who claimed sovereignty of the Falklands Islands for Britain - and of his education at Eton; and he never shirked in what he knew to be his duty to those less fortunate than he.

His career in the building industry began at Holliday and Green-.wood, following a two-year period of training in textile and related engineering. He became a director in 1937 and chairman and managing director from 1953. In 1959 Woodbine Parish was appointed chairman of of the building industry. Woodbine



Bovis Limited. His retirement in 1966 allowed an expanded participation in charitable activites. His sense of responsibility was

Worshipful Company of Clothworkers. 12th of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London, in which he served as a Warden, 1962-64, and as Master, 1974-75. The Clothworkers' Company was one of the original Founder Members, in 1878, of the City and Guilds of London Institute for the Advancement of Technical Education (now better known as City and Guilds). Through this connection, and because of his direct knowledge and experience

saw his wideranging voluntary activities as a way of returning thanks for his privileged background and upbringing

Woodbine Parish

Parish was appointed to the Council of the institute in 1954. One of his earliest contributions to the institute was to provide it with nurtured through membership of the a new home. It was then housed in two rooms at Gresham College; the lease was due to expire in 1958. Woodbine Parish, as chairman of Holliday and Greenwood and Joint Honorary Secretary of the City and Guilds from 1957, supervised the design and construction of the new headquarters in Portland Place. The foundation

stone was laid in February 1958. Woodbine Parish's contribution to education and training was extensive: he served on the board of the Construction Industry Training Board from 1964-70, chaired the

UK National Committee of the Inthe National Examinations Board for Supervisory Studies. To everything to which he set himself, Woodbine Parish committed himself wholeheartedly: he had been known to shed tears of effort and frustration in pursuit of a cherished objective.

He was Chairman at the City and Guilds for 12 years from 1967 - his chairmanship in the Centenary Year, with the associated celebrations, gave him particular pleasure. On retirement in 1979, he was appointed Life Vice-President by the Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds, in recognition of his years of dedication and hard work - the only such appointment in 101 years.

From the 1950s to the 1980s there was hardly a body concerned with management and technological education, the development of institutions of higher education, and of hospitals and medical schools, in the City and Greater London, in which Woodbine Parish did not play a significant part. In particular he had a long association with St Thomas' Hospital, serving as Vice-Chairman of the Board from 1967 until 1974, and ensured the construction of a new outpatients' building during his eight years as chairman of the Rebuilding Committee. He also chaired the

Council of the Medical School from

port which he gave behind the scenes to government and local government. Bringing together his building knowledge and medical experience, he chaired the Department of Health and Social Security Committee of Enquiry on Hospital Building Maintenance, in 1968-70. In March 1972 he advised Margaret Thatcher (then Secretary of State for Education) in the negotiations leading up to the establishment of the Technician and Business

Education Councils. He was appointed CBE for his public services in 1964 and knighted in 1980. His contributions to the management of such a wide range of institutions were also recognised in the award of numerous fellowships and honorary degrees.

Woodbine Parish married Mona McGarel Johnston in 1939. Together they built their country home, the Glebe Barn, in Pulborough, West Sussex, where they were idyllically

David Woodbine Parish - he was punctilious about there being no hyphen between his surnames and he disliked and ignored his second baptismal name of Elmer - set the highest standards of conduct; of dress; and in the presentations of pa-pers. He found casual manners distasteful and an embarrassment. On

system for colour-coded highlighting mastery of their contents will long be remembered by those in the same time. Secretary's office at City and Guilds. During It was always an unspoken regret that an affliction of the feet prevented

PETER STEVENS

builder, businessman and philanthropist: born London 29 June 1911;

Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors, St Thomas' Hospital 1967-74; Chairman, Council, St Thomas' Hospital Medical School 1970-82: director, Marine and General Chairman, Joint Mission Hospital Equipment Board 1973-78; Kt 1980; master-class. Chairman, Sussex Area, Royal School of Church Music 1981-85: married 1939 Mona McGarel Johnston (died 1991; two daughters); died Pulborough, West Sussex 12

November 1998.

Boris Chernobilsky

THE WORD refusenik, a Soviet Jew refused permission to emigrate to Israel, entered the English dictionary in 1976, coincidentally the year Boris Chernobilsky first entered prison. This was due largely to the exploits of Anatoly (Natan) Shcharansky, now leader of Israel's Yisrael ba-Aliyal party, Yuli Edelstein, now Israel's Absorption Minister, and Chernobilsky, who has died while swimming off an Israeli beach.

That he reached Israel at all was down to dogged persistence, coupled with copious chutzpah, in the face of a quite appalling catalogue of statesponsored harassment. Born and educated in Moscow, Chernobilsky graduated as a radio/electronics engineer. His knowledge of radar technology, acquired during his national service in the Soviet army in the mid-Sixties, was considered by the authorities more than a decade

later as reason enough to deny Chernobilsky, his wife Leah, and their three children an exit visa for a new life in Israel. The charge, as always in the land of paranoia, was one of "being in possession of secret information", the all-embracing reason for holding on to even the most reluctant and innocuous citizens.

This determined the Chernobilskys all the more to embrace their heritage and their Jewish knowledge and they turned their tiny Moscow apartment into a Jewish school, teaching first themselves, then countless other refuseniks, Hebrew in readiness for the day they would all reach Israel. In all, Chernobilsky's efforts contributed to thousands of would-be Jewish émigres achieving

their dreams of a new life in Israel. To involve yourself in any way with the Hebrew language in the Soviet Union of the 1970s and 1980s was

to incur the wrath of the authorities, who regarded the learning and teaching of Hebrew as, if not illegal, then certainly a deeply subversive activity. This was anti-Semitism in a flimsy dressing. They subjected the family to a systematic reign of terror, with regular beatings and temporary prison detention, culminating for Chernobilsky in a year in a Siberian labour camp on trumped-up charges of "malicious hooliganism", the Soviet euphemism for "peaceful demonstration". He also secretly travelled to the Gulag, taking film of prison-camp life, which alerted the West to what was happening.

Active campaigning from the West, not least the intervention of Kenneth Baker, then Education Secretary, won the Chernobilskys some respite from their harassment. First their daughter Geula was allowed to

leave her state school, where pupils and staff alike would taunt her for being the child of a "traitor", in favour of Moscow's Anglo-American School. Then Chernobilsky was granted a temporary visa to accept, at the House of Lords, the Henry Moore Award of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry.

Shortly after, and close on 15 years after they first applied, the Chernobilskys received their exit visas and left for Israel, grateful to John Major and Sir Geoffrey Howe, then Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, for their assistance in

securing safe passage. Chernobilsky, always endearing, ever resourceful, and never one to conform, did not arrive in Israel the way others did. Using what little money he had garnered from the sale of his possessions, primarily his

much-prized computer, he became one of the few Muscovite Volvo owners, driving the car, his family, and what little else they had across no fewer than nine borders before arriving in Haifa, to the bemusement of the transit authorities for whom this was a first. A refusenik arriving by car was a radical departure from the norm, even in a country where nothing is done by halves.

Despite all the right credentials, no less so than Shcharansky and Edelstein, Chernobilsky eschewed Israel's political life, indeed the limelight in general, preferring in-stead to fall back on his electrical skills from which he eked a modest existence, living a happy, quiet life close to the sea which ultimately claimed him.

His spare time, when not bathing in the Mediterranean, was given largely to assisting those Soviet im- Ashkelon, Israel 16 October 1998. | 1998



Volvo refusenik

migrants less well placed than

PETER MOSS

Boris Chernobilsky, electrician. teacher and human rights activist: Kent 12 October 1946; married born Moscow 2 April 1944; married Zelda Dobbs (two sons); died

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ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Federature 3h 1938 and Small 1997; Federature 3h 1938 and Small 1997; Federature 3h 1938 and Small 1997; Federature 3h 1997; Federatur

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DAY REVIEW

Professor Peter Daniel

SUCCESS IN scientific research often results from beavering away at an ever-narrowing strip of knowledge. This was not Peter Daniel's way: his was an 18th-century polymath's enthusiasm for an extraordinary range of subjects in medical science. Indeed, he was made a Fellow of four royal colleges on the strength of his published work. He was born in 1910 in London.

where his father was Senior Surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital. After a rather quirky education at Westminster School. Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, and Charing Cross Medical School (through idleness he was expelled from two of these), he qualified in medicine at the

He began as a pathologist at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford and then as a neuropathologist to Sir Hugh Cairns, Professor of Neurosurgery at Oxford. Daniel became an astute diagnostician of brain tumours and nervous system diseases and established regular brain-cuts, always well attended by pathologists and clinicians at which postmortem specimens were discussed. He ran these events with humour and erudition until he retired.

In the evenings and weekends, he followed other interests. With Marjorie Prichard he studied the control of blood flow to the kidney, which had important clinical implications. This work was published in 1947 as Studies of the Renal Circulation, immediately repudiated by other workers, and it was I some years before American research rediscovered the observations.

Indeed, one of the threads running through Daniel's work was his interest in the anatomy and physiology of the minutest blood vessels of various organs. He had remarkable surgical skills which enabled him to inject very small blood vessels, making them solid and photogenic. His studies on the vascular connection between the brain and the pituitary gland proved fundamental to many research projects. This work was drawn together in a monograph in 1975 Studies of the Hypothalamus and the Pituitary Gland), with Marjorie Prichard, of which he was particularly proud. Much of this work was carried out in the Oxford Observatory - the beautiful 18th-century building which is

Now Green College. In 1957 Daniel was appointed to the chair of Neuropathology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. He was a good chief, always available (he did not like travelling abroad), very generous and good at getting grants. There were departmental expeditions, for instance to the London Zoo to take the brain and eye muscles of an elephant that had died there. This brain and skull were shown to the Queen Mother at the opening of the new building of the Institute of Psychiatry. The picture appeared in the local aper with the caption, "The Queen Nother, discussing the patients' food with the head cook".

a fatal disease of sheep of a then unknown cause, which eventually turned out to be a brain disease - a spongiform pecially thyroid hormones and insulin), encephalopathy. With Elizabeth Beck he and on the transport of amino acids into



Daniel in 1968, showing the Queen Mother a slice of elephant skull from London Zoo

showed that the brain changes were the brain, muscles and liver - work which similar to those in Kuru, a disease affecting the natives of New Guinea. probably transmitted through cannibalism. and to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

Major experimental work on these diseases was carried out by Carlton Gadjucek and his team in the United States. but the work of Beck and Daniel was crucial in proving that these conditions could be transmitted, within and across

other infectious agent then known.

This was some 15-20 years before

BSE (the bovine form of spongiform

encephalopathy) appeared in Britain.

continued to do physiological and anat-

omical work with Professor David Whit-

teridge in Oxford, on the sense organs

rones in the central nervous system; he

wrote on the secretion of hormones (es-

Even after moving to London Daniel

demanded much skill as well as thought. He also contributed to neuropathology, particularly to the study of head injuries and tuberculous meningitis (Oxford was the first centre to treat this then

incurable disease with streptomycin). He inspired affection and loyalty - not from absolutely everyone - and demanded high standards for both published work and material presented to species. The "agent" was unlike any learned societies. Many important pa-

pers came out of his departments in both

Daniel was the best of company and

remarkable conversationalist. He

could always produce some original -

often scurrilous - slant on any subject.

His favourite place on the planet was the

Garrick Club; there he seemed not

he knew an extraordinary number of

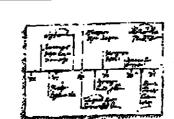
Oxford and London.

the Harveian Society. His second favourite institution was the Physiological Society of which he became President and was elected a life member.

After he retired from the Institute of Psychiatry he was given bench space at the Royal College of Surgeons and St Thomas' Hospital, but without colleagues and a department he did not thrive. Around his 80th birthday, after a series of illnesses, he lost his joie de vivre and took to his bed. He was cared for devotedly in the last years by his wife Marion. He had always been busy - the discovery that this was no longer possible deeply upset him. Peter Daniel was a person who brought remarkable gifts to the world; many will be saddened by his death.

> JOHN HENDERSON AND SABINA STRICH

Peter Maxwell Daniel, neuropathologist and physiologist: born London 14 November 1910; Honorary Consultant Pathologist. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford 1948-56; Senior Research Officer, Oxford University 1949-56; Honorary Consultant in Neuropathology to the Army at Home 1952-77; Professor of Neuropathology, London University, at the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital 1957-76 (Emeritus); married first Sally Shelford (two solved), second Dawn Bosanquet (one doctors. He had been President of the son; marriage dissolved), third Mar-Neuropathological Society, the Osler ion Bosanauet; died London 19 Club, the Medical Society of London and November 1998.



HISTORICAL NOTES

A homicidal snob with too few brains

THE SEVENTH Earl of Cardigan will forever be remembered as the man who led the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in October 1854. Thanks to a misunderstood order, 676 riders were sent to attack a Russian battery at the end of a valley bounded on three sides by enemy troops. When the bloodied remnants formed up near the same ground they had charged from 25 minutes earlier, only 195 men were

still mounted. Cardigan was lucky. He suffered only a superficial wound and returned home to a rapturous welcome, cheered in the streets. lionised by society and decorated by the Queen. Pictures of him appeared in shops everywhere: music halls reverberated to heroic ballads in his honour; and even the novel jacket that he had worn in the Crimea was named after him.

It was all a far cry from his departure, eight months earlier, as one of the most unpopular men in England. Since then the war had degenerated into a costly and controversial stalemate; little wonder that the members of the Light Brigade were held up as shining examples of British valour. And none more so than their vaunted leader, Lord Cardigan. The scandal and disgrace that had hitherto dogged his career - two courts-martial.

two court appearances for

R v Demel [1997] 2 Cr App R

(S) 5 should no longer be

regarded as a reliable guide

to the level of tariff current-

ly appropriate in cases of

The Court of Appeal dis-

missed the appellant's appeal

against a sentence of two years'

imprisonment imposed for

The appellant, who was aged

indecent assault on a female.

58, indecently assaulted a 13-

year-old schoolfriend of his 14-

year-old daughter who had

come to spend the night at his

home. The appellant had sup-

plied both girls with a consid-

erable amount of alcohol and

had assaulted the victim after

she had gone to bed. She had

leapt from the bed, collected her

belongings, run to the bath-

room, dressed and climbed out

of the window. She had then run

home, arriving just after mid-

night, and her parents had

Helen McCormack (Registrar

of Criminal Appeals) for the

called the police.

appellant.

indecent assault.

adultery, a near-fatal duel, dismissal from the command of a crack cavalry regiment, blackhalled by the leading military club, debates in Parliament about his conduct -were now a distant memory. But did his actions at Balaclava merit such adulation?

The first seeds of doubt

were sown in the public mind

by the 1855 publication of George Ryan's pamphlet Was Lord Cardigan a Hero at Balaclava?. A jobbing writer, Ryan had earlier praised Cardigan for his conduct at the charge; he now explained his volte-face by saying that he had been put straight by an official at the Horse Guards who had heard at first hand from a number of officers involved. Ryan's main criticism was that Cardigan had retreated from the Russian battery "before his time" and in a far from orderly manner. In other words, he had left his men in the lurch.

An even more serious threat to Cardigan's status as national hero was posed by the appearance in December 1856 of a book entitled Letters from Head-Quarters by Major the Hon Somerset Calthorpe, who had served in the Crimea. It made a number of harmful claims, the most serious of which was that Cardigan did not even reach the Russian battery; instead "his horse took fright" when a cannon fired "and galloped off with him to the rear".

Fortunately for Cardigan,

mixed up with half-truths, enabling him to refute them en bloc. Nevertheless, Calthorpe would only agree to make minor alterations to the text. prompting Cardigan to sue him for libel. It was a grave error. At the trial, Calthorpe was forced to concede that Cardigan had indeed entered the battery: but he also produced evidence from seven eye-witnesses who claimed to have seen Cardigan galloping to the rear before they had even reached the guns. It was akin to a naval captain abandoning his ship before the last of his men had got off. The case was dismissed and the impression that Cardigan had retreated prematurely was never dispelled.

The popular image of Cardigan today is of the archetypal early-Victorian army officer: an arrogant, homicidal snob with too much money and too few brains, as likely to be found aboard a woman as a horse. Like all caricatures, it is a distortion of the truth, but based on fact none the less. The Charge of the Light Brigade was a heaven-sent opportunity for Cardigan to put the controversy of his life behind him. Instead, his conduct generated yet more controversy, and ensured that his rehabilitation in the minds of the public would never be complete.

Saul David is the author 'The Homicidal Earl: of The Homician Euri. the life of Lord Cardigan genuine criticisms were (Abacus, £10.99)

GAZETTE

His favourite place on the planet was the

Garrick Club. His second favourite

institution was the Physiological Society,

of which he became President

of the muscles that move the eye. There only to know everybody, but was often

were other interests: he was one of the arranging something for someone.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Benny Andersson, singer with Abba, 52; Miss Anne Begg MP, 43; Mr Michael Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 57; Mr Norman Blamey, painter, 84; Sir Michael Carlisle, Chairman, Community Health Sheffield YHS Trust, 69; Mr Arthur C. Carke, science fact and fiction writer, 81; Mrs Myrella Cohen QC, former circuit judge, 71; Professor Bernard Crick, Emeritus Professor of Politics, London University, and biographer, 69; The Hon Peter Dickinson, writer, 71; Miss Jacqueline Duncan, Principal, Inchbald Schools of Design and Fine Arts, 67; Mr Christopher Ellison, actor, 52; Mr Joel Garner, cricketer, 46; Mr Robert Gunn, former chairman of Boots, 73; Miss Heather Hallett QC, Chairman of the Bar Quncil, 49; Mr Tony Hicks, rock guitarist, 53; Sir Jasper Hollom, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 81; Miss Jacqui Lait MP, 51; Miss Stephanie Lawrence. singer, 45; Lord Mottistone,

Governor of the Isle of Wight, 78; Mr Arthur Robinson, President of Trinidad and Tobago, 72; Lt-Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, 76; Mr Rodion Shchedrin, composer, 66; Miss Liv Ullmann actress, 60; Mr William Whatley, former trade union official, 76; General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, 57.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Catherine of Aragon, first queen of Henry VIII, 1485; Jane Austen, novelist. 1775; Leopold I, King of the Beigians, 1790; Zoltán Kodały, composer, 1882; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, 1882; Sir Noël Pierce Coward, playwright, actor and composer, 1889; Dr Margaret Mead, anthropologist, 1901.

Deaths: Pepin II, leader of the Franks, 714; Wilhelm Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1859; William Terriss (William Charles James Lewin) actor, stabbed by a madman (Richard Archer Prince) on entering the Adelphi Theatre, London 1897; Charles-Camille Saint-

Saëns, composer, 1921; Alton Glenn Miller, dance band leader, lost after an air flight 1944; William Somerset Maugham, novelist, 1965.

On this day: Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector, 1653; the "Boston Tea Party" took place, 1773; Josephine was divorced from Napoleon by Act of the Senate, 1809; the Charlotte Jane. first immigrant ship for the Canterbury settlement in New Zealand, arrived at Lyttelton, 1850; the Manchester Ship Canal was completed, 1893; work on constructing the Mersey Tunnel was started, 1925; the first production of the musical show Me and My Girl took place in London, 1937; the power of the House of Lords to veto legislation was reduced, 1949; synthetic diamonds were first produced by Professor H.T. Hall at the GEC

Today is the Feast Day of St Adelaide, St Ado, St Albina, Saints Ananiah, Azariah and Mishael (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) and St Irenion.

Laboratories in the United

States, 1954.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Susan Foister, Neil MacGregor, Christopher Riopelle: "Christmas Round Robin",

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Searight "Merchants and Collectors in the Nehru Gallery (ii)", 2pm. British Museum: Chris Spring, "Artists and Artisans, Perspectives on Tunisian Culture: an introduction", 11.30am.

Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Dutch Paintings in the Wallace Collection", 1pm. Royal Holloway, London University, Egham, Surrey: Professor Peter Bramley. "The Super-healthy Tomato: fact or fantasy?", 5.30pm. Kufa Gallery, London W2: Samir Salha, "Arab and Turkish Relations", 7.15pm.

LUNCHEONS

Institute of Physics Dr Brian Manley, Past Presi dent of the Institute of Physics, presided at a luncheon for representatives of the Institute's Corporate

Affiliate companies held yesterday at the Goring Hotel. London SW1. Sir Derek Roberts, Provost of University College London, spoke on "Universities as Businesses"

Airey Neave Trust Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, was guest of honour at a reception held yesterday evening by the Airey Neave Trust at the House of Commons, London SW1, to mark the publication of Preventing Torture by Dr Malcolm Evans and Professor Rod Morgan.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Mr John Hodges, Professor George Fleming and Mr Jon Lane spoke on "Engineering and World Poverty".

RECEPTIONS

Lord Justice Rose VP said that counsel had relied on the case of R v Demel [1997] 2 Cr App R (S) 5. In that case the court had reduced from two years to 18 months a sentence passed upon a priest for a sin-

gle offence of indecent assault

tions in R v Demel could no

on a 10-year-old girl. Counsel stressed that the breach of trust in that case could hardly have been greater. The court had drawn counsel's attention to a subsequent unreported decision of the Court of Appeal, namely R v Lennon (7 April 1998), in the light of which she accepted that certain of the observa-

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

Tariff for indecent

assault disapproved

16 DECEMBER 1998

Regina v W Court of Appeal, Criminal Division

(Lord Justice Rose, Vice-President, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Johnson) 10 December 1998

longer be relied upon as far as the tariff for such offences of indecent assault was concerned. She relied, none the less, upon the facts of R v Demel as being more serious than those in the present case.

The tariff referred to in R v Demel was between 13 and 18 months' imprisonment on a plea of guilty where there had been a breach of trust. In delivering the reserved judgment of the court in R v Lennon Henry LJ had analysed each of the authorities on which the court had relied in R v Demel as establishing the tariff there referred to.

R v Vinson (1981) 3 Cr App R (S) 315 was decided when the maximum penalty for indecent assault on a woman was two years. R v Smith (1986) 8 Cr App R (S) 325 was decided in October 1986, after section 3(3) of the Sexual Offences Act 1985 had, with effect from 1 September 1985, increased that maximum to 10 years, but the offences had been committed in 1984. In 1984, even in respect of girls under 13, the maximum sentence was still only five years.

In R v Gibbons (1987) 9 Cr App R (S) 391 the court had relied on R v Vinson and R v Smith as being "equally applicable today", a conclusion which, with respect, their lordships found mystifying, Parliament having increased the maximum sentence since those cases were decided.

In R v Moghal (1992) 14 Cr App R (S) 126 the court relied on R v Vinson, apparently oblivious to the intervening statutory change. In Rv Aston (1993) 14 Cr App R (S) 779, where R v Vinson and R v Moghal were considered, the offences were indecency with a child, not indecent assault.

In R v Lennon Henry LJ had said of those authorities that they "cannot, when read in the light of the statutory framework in force at the material time, be said to provide a tariff sentence bracket at the level referred to in them". To that extent their lordships respectfully disagreed with R v Demel. The conclusion in R v Lennon and the analysis in which it was based were correct. R v Demel should not, in the view of the court, be regarded as a reliable guide to the level of tariff currently appropriate in cases of indecent assault.

Furthermore, as the circumstances of indecent assault varied infinitely, the range of possible sentences was a good deal wider than R v Demel suggested.

In the light of the above and in all the circumstances of the present case, the sentence could not be regarded as

> KATE O'HANLON Barrister

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

former Lord-Lieutenant and

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Priory Campus. Lundwood, South Yorkshire; visits Rotherham Markets, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and opens the new roof; visits LuK (UK) Limited,

Waleswood Road, Walesbar, South Yorkshire; and officially opens Sheffield Airport. The Princess Royal, President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, visits Pembrokeshire Carers Centre, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. visits the new Carers Centre at Mansel Street, Swansea. West Glamorgan, and

attends a Luncheon at County Hall, Swansea; as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits Frank Theak and Roskilly Limited, Cwmbran, Gwent; and, as President, the Missions to Seamen, visits their new building at Alexandra Docks, Newport. Gwent. The Duke of Kent

visits Poole High School, Poole, Dorset, to open the new Performing Arts Centre; visits the Facilities Centre. Day Centre and Social and Education Centre at Stourview Social Services Centre, Sturminster Newton, Dorset; and visits DEK Printing Machines Limited. Weymouth, Dorset.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st **Battalion Coldstream Guards** mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

LITTLE DID I think that I would spot a gap in the new Canadian Oxford Dictionary. Simon Hoggart recently wrote that in Canada "I watched the

ately known as the Nash)". I had assumed this to be a fine, pleasingly dismissive lable - surely worth a place resonance.

National News (affection-

Words **CHRISTOPHER** HAWTRĖE

Nash, n. over here during the absurd

palaver about News at Ten. To Canadian ears, however, rendering of that first syl- it most likely has another

Look up Nash in the Dictionary (as is the current trend, partly an encylopaedia), and there is the English architect John Nash and the American poet Ogden Nash, but pride of places goes to (Cyril) Knowiton Nash. Who? "From 1978-88 he was chief correspondent and anchor on CBC's 'The National'."

You ask the questions

(Such as: Penelope Leach, if you discovered one of your children smoking dope what would you do?)

hildcare expert Pene-lope Leach, 61, is the ward-winning author of the classic guide to parenting, Boby and Child, which has sold over three million copies in 29 languages. Leach studied history at Cambridge and trained as a research psychologist in London. She currently works as an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at London's Royal Free and University College Medical School. She has two grown-up children and lives in north London with her husband.

Where did the Queen go wrong with her children? What advice would you have given her when she sent Charles to Gordonstoun? Anito Hughes, Horsham

It must be difficult to have a close relationship with your child as well as a nation. Don't do it, your Majesty!

Is there anything you regret in the way you brought up your own children? Would you have done anything differently in retrospect? Michelle Eyre, Milton Keynes

Like most parents, I regret being as uptight as I was - getting fussed about issues of the day. In hindsight (that useful stuff), I know almost everything comes out in the wash and I'd have saved a lot of energy just having a great time.

Is there too much pressure on women to have children? Angela Summers, Cheshire

Any pressure is too much pressure. Biological clocks and putative fathers are bad enough without other people getting in on the act.

My son is four years old and even though I don't want to get pregnant again, I feel he would benefit from a sibling. Should I have another?

Melanie King, Newquay. I think the only good reason for having a child - first, second or third is that you (and, preferably, your partner) passionately want not a pregnancy, or a baby, but a child.

Were your children difficult or easy babies?

Becky Thomas, Winchester Easy babies - responsive, funny teenagers (both; sorry but it's true).

If you'd found one of your children smoking cannabis in their bedroom what would you do?

Sophie Mitchell, Torquay It would have depended on which child and when. But I would have stressed that it's against the law, I Justified by or for whom? If it's what

and other horrors that may arise. Do you feel guilty for putting pressure on mothers to be the

"perfect nurturer"? Why can't we just rely on instincts? Chris Allen, Peterborough

If a book, mine or anyone else's, makes you feel guilty or inadequate or uncomfortable, for heaven's sake bin it. I don't feel guilty because publishing a book merely makes it available: nobody has to buy it. and gorgeous (both); Tricky toddlers Newspaper headlines and TV a lone parent. (especially one); no-problem soundbites are far harder to escape.

> I resent having to get up each night to breast-feed while my partner sleeps through oblivious. I've started waking him up too while the baby is feeding. Is that justified? Laura James, Beeston

to parents - eg, in trying to persuade makes you feel better but not him, an unfortunate combination of cir- Helen Jones, Norbury

children to go to school, not marry you'll have to sort it out between you. married men three times their age But if your baby was in bed with you both, nobody would have to get up.

Can one parent ever be better than

Gaby Phillips, Manchester Yes. Parenting is a matter of quality, not just quantity. Of course, two good parents are better than one, but if one of the two parents is abusive, violent or coldly critical, the other parent has a far better chance of making a safe, warm, supportive home for the children as

Can children be inherently bad? Gina Mayhew, Camden, London I don't think I believe that anyone can be inherently bad because what is birth and after) and perhaps an uncalled bad depends so much on comfortable fit with the personalities, culture and circumstances (one nation's or one era's hero is another's lar parents. mass murderer.).

think the law can be a useful support your partnership needs - fine. If it born that way. They're the result of be justified?

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: FATHER CHRISTMAS, FOLLOWED BY RICHARD DAWKINS, EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST

Send questions for Father Christmas or Richard Dawkins to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail yourquestions@ independent.co.uk) by noon on Friday, 18 December

curnstances including their unique If you smack a child who is - for exgenetic inheritance, particular experiences (in the womb, during wishes and expectations of particu-

Children who seem "bad" weren't Do you believe smacking can ever



stop and cry. You've vented some tension, done the mother-tiger bit for your youngest and won a battle of wills with the wilful toddler. On that superficial level smacking is rewarding and, since most parents were smacked when they were children, it may seem obvious too. Justifiable is different. Every generation

does the best it can by its children; our parents thought it was right to smack us but the last 20 years has taught us to aim for no violence at all in families. Most parents actually don't try to justify smacking. Ask if they smack as part of thoughtful loving discipline and they'll tell you, "I smack when I've lost it."

What attracted you to devoting your career to childcare? Amy Stephen, St Helens

I didn't devote my career to childcare. I devoted it to research psychology, specifically child development. The childcare bit came when I added my own children into ample - pulling a baby's nose, she'll the mix and discovered the (then) enormous gulf between professionals and parents. I wasn't comfortable straddling that gulf and I've been working since to help close it up.

Do you think one parent should be at home if a child is under three? Emma Doughty, Blackheath, Babies and very young children need to be cared for within a small magic circle of intimates, people with whom they're on blowing-raspberries-against-the-belly terms. It doesn't matter whether that's "at home" or not, or whether it's a parent, another relative or friend.

Is there one piece of legislation that would improve family values? Maxine Heath, Solihull The creation of a Minister for Children, with Cabinet-level teeth.

Parenting classes seem very in vogue – do you think they work? Anne Hutton, Southampton That kind of peer group support can be very valuable, and where there are specific problems - like combative toddlers or argumentative teenagers – talking through different ways of coping can help people break out of stale or destructive patterns and find fresh ways forward.

Do you think it's harder to bring up children now than it was 20 years ago?

Sara Agnelli, Hull Everyone always thinks the past was better than the present but I'll still answer "probably", because this is a society where being a parent is actually a disadvantage. Even if all the men and women in a firm work the same hours and earn the same money, the parents have to stretch their free time and their money to cover children's needs as well as their own, so at every level of income and accomplishment, parents are busier and poorer than non-parents.

How would you describe a "good" parent? Will Norman, Hove I wouldn't.

Can men and women ever be equal when it comes to who gets left with the baby? Susie Stirling, Oxfordshire Yes. The fact that they mostly aren't

in no way suggests they cannot be. What is your defence for childcentred rearing? Sue Martins, North Yorkshire

Why should I have to defend it? I'd like a world where everyone who chooses to have a child is to some extent child-centred (after all, we've

Why do you find child development so interesting? Christine Wood, Sussex

To me it has always seemed fascinating how children turn from blobs of genetic material into chattering, scampering people in two year flat. I still find them fascinating my own, my grandchildren and other people's.

Shelters from the storm

Sleeping rough is bad enough if you're young. Imagine it at the age of 80. By Darius Sanai

TERRY WANTS to tell his story. nents Super. Then the band split He's sitting in a chair in the lounge sipping beer from a cup and looking at me with urgent eyes. Terry once worked for the Ministry of Defence, as a low-ranking civil servant, and lived in Thamesmead, south London, with his wife and two children, playing and touring in a pub rock band in his

As Terry approached middle age, though, his life began to unravel. First, his wife left him for her boss, leaving him to look after their children. A couple of years later, he gave up his job. "I had to look after the kids, kids are important." he says, waving his finger, taking a sip of Ten-

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England, Prespose each, searches, are to man.
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England will distribute in equal shares 20% of all funds raised to St Christopher's
Hospice and Action on Elder Abuse (all registered charities)

Please Note: From time to time, Age Concern England would like to allow other reputable organisations to write to list supporters flowerer, if you prefer not to the contacted by other such organisations.

ON BUFF, ABUSE

ON BUFF, ABUSE

up, meaning he lost his main hobby and, given the way he talks about it now, the only other thing that made his life at all fulfilling.

A while later - Terry isn't sure about dates - his house was repossessed. He went straight to a charity shelter and has been homeless since ~ about 10 years– and will probably remain so until he dies. He never saw Samantha, his daughter, again, though his son James still visits him. Terry is 58 and sits telling me

all this in the clean, warm lounge of the Robertson Street project, a home in south London for the elderly homeless.



The idea of grandparents

spending their nights slumped

in doorways is horrendous, even in a society where respect for our elders is becoming a concept of the past. Appalling though homelessness is, it is somehow more comforting for our under-used consciences to imagine those sleeping rough as young and fit. Yet every night some 300 grandparents, some in their seventies and eighties, try to sleep on the streets of London. As well as the daily survival ritual suffered by all their fellow homeless, they have to cope with illness, susceptibility to the cold and all the other problems that age brings and homelessness accentuates.

Robertson Street is run by Bondway, a charity based in London. Although the housing project itself is funded by local authorities and the Government, Bondway relies on charitable donations to fund its daily soup run for the elderly homeless, taking in hundreds of people on the streets of London.



Hungry, homeless and old

The oldest resident is 79; the oldest regular queueing up for the soup run is 82. Several have long forgotten the details of their lives, often sporadically dotted with periods of homelessness. Most of the residents are in their sixties and seventies. Some 200 can sleep in the dormitories of one of Bondway's shelters and 41 are catered for, fed and lodged, many with their own clean, modern bedrooms, at Robert-

son Street. "A lot of the people at Robertson Street are people with alcohol or mental health problems or distinctive personalities who would quite likely end up sleeping on the streets otherwise," says Nick tion: 0171-582 1232

Dunn, one of the charity's directors. Many have been rejected by council care homes because of their drinking habits. At Robertson Street residents are allowed to drink from cans of the ubiquitous Tennents Super; they wouldn't stay otherwise. Mr Dunn says there are many more on the waiting list.

The dignity afforded to these elderly gentlemen (there are a few women, but most of the old homeless are male) is evident from one look at the airy lounge, where six or seven of them sit all day in armchairs. not saying anything much. "I'm happy here because wee Jimmy's wi' me," says John, who is 62, in broadest Glaswegian, pointing at the next chair. Jimmy has slept rough on and off since coming down to London at the end of the Second World War.

These men are the fortunate ones, because every evening they have something to eat and somewhere warm to pass the dying years of their lives. There are hundreds of others who lie, forgotten by their families and friends, the experience of their lives compressed into one quick line ("please help, sir, I fought the Japs in '42"), on the pavements and in the doorways along the route of everybody's mute home.

Bondway Housing Associa-

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

21: SURFING ON THE INTERNET BY MAUREEN FREELY

FIRST THE film version, A handsome astrophysicist is hammering away at his keyboard. He's surfing onto the outer reaches of the web. searching for the secret that will help him prevent nuclear holocaust, and because time is running out, he is gritting his teeth and muttering: "Come on! Come on!" Finally he is one password away from success. Turning to his gorgeous female companion, he says: "Think of something!" and she suggests the villain's mother's maiden name. No go. Then she exclaims: "I know! It's his dog!" Our hero types "Rover" and presto! The world is saved. hour internet search has

The desperate eleventh become a Hollywood staple. To save the world these days you don't need muscles or brains. All you need to know is how to surf. This is not just a film formula. There doesn't seem to be a single person who uses the net who doesn't believe it.

They back up their blind faith with amazing stories about the secret government documents they've happened on to while surfing. They wax poetic about Amazon.com which can get you any book your heart desires. and have long, boring discussions about the relative merits of search engines with names like



The simplest surfing trip takes hours "Yahoo!" and "Dogpile" But you know, when I log on, I'm lucky to get past my university home page. Even if I do, the simplest little surfing trip takes me hours. Say I try to order something from the stationery office. I press a key and then I wait 10 minutes while its logo appears. I choose an option, then discover that Tve chosen the wrong option, but there is no way out, as all the keys seem to be frozen. Twenty minutes later, I get a flash on the screen informing me that there has been a network error. When I do find the right page and make my order, all I get is some stuff about there being "no configuration". I am invited to download a form but the document that emerges from the printer

is a recipe for "Zippy Banana Pie". Cyberianatics assure

me that all my problems will be over once I've offloaded my ancient (ie three-year-old) 386 and equip myself with a "decent" computer. But the fastest machine on the market is not going to solve the problem of access. Sites I've visited so far fall into two categories. Either they are open to everybody, because they're run by cranks, or they're worth visiting but impossible to get into unless you pay a subscription. Even then, access depends on you remembering your password and managing to type it correctly without actually being able to see it on the screen. Because a password is not a password unless every other figure is an * or a > and all the letters are upper case. It's only in the movies that you can save the world by typing "Rover". In the real world. we will one day fail to be brought back from the brink of nuclear disaster because some poor astrophysicist types "??" instead of "??.". Or chooses the wrong search engine. Or gets stuck inside Yahoo. Or lost inside a website with logos that take so long to configure that you could walk there faster. If this is surfing, I'd rather take a mud bath.

..... 10.110000

Lines with the far in State

(CPERTON H. minuber tree

وند د د. - -- 78.350 ा १८८**३** हरू A STATE OF THE STA They are some ASI Comme Mes with an ap-PETROL STORY 2022 Maria Santa

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If alcohol doesn't

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Could size double as a series thinks there have who thinks they have what we probably dont need the persons the better the be Spokes of the findings of the second guer januched aiming and a country and arrange and a country arrange and prefers and a strictle who prefers

Tired of wearing the same outfit to every Christmas party? Call the rent-a-frock brigade. By Tamsin Blanchard









Clockwise from top left: Top, £65, from Steinberg & Tolkien, 193 Kings Road SW3, enquiries 0171-376 3660; Guy Laroche suit, £150, from Steinberg & Tolkien; blue silk dress, £35, gloves, £10, ring, £5, (for three days), to hire at The Contemporary Wardrobe; trouser-suit to hire, £47 for seven days, Stagestruck. Photographer: Tanya Chalkin; stylist: Stephen da Silva; photographer's assistant: Hemanth; make-up: Alex Babsky @ Mandy Coakley using Estee Lauder; hair: Bronwyn Illingworth for Toni & Guy using Tigi; Model: Juliette @ Select. Shot at The Contemporary Wardrobe

Yes, you shall go to the ball

t's party time. Between Eve, the usual dress codes go out of the window. Expect to see oversized Santas, flashing reindeer antlers, and revellers dressed in all sorts of ridiculous outfits wandering, drunk and confused, in town atres up and down the country. Party season is fashion's silly season (and you thought are two options: fancy dresses, as in sexy bits of nothing deflesh as possible; and fancy dress, as in gangsters and molls, vicars and tarts.

At The Contemporary Wardrobe in deepest, darkest Bicomsbury, London, there are ions to every party-goer's problems. The place itself is something of a find - literally. It is in an old Horse Hospital, hidden away on a narrow street called Colonnade. Ring on the doorbell (best to make an appointment first) and you will be told to come downstairs into the cobbled basement. It's dark, chilly and damp, and you have to be careful you don't slip on the sloping floor that was designed for horses to trot down.

and, depending on whether you tasised about wearing.

are looking for a Seventies' now and New Year's outfit (and judging by demand, you probably will be), or a Fifties' ballgown, she will direct you to the right rail. The clothes are filed by date. And there are rails and rails, ranging from the Forties to the present day.

The Contemporary Wardrobe is the collection of costume designer Roger Burton. He has been in the business since the Sixties, and he has collected every season was silly). There more clothes than he knows what to do with. He has turned his collection into a library for signed to reveal as much bare his own work - mainly supplying costumes for TV commercials - and for anyone else who wants to hire it out. The highlight of the collection is a range of original Westwood/McLaren punk pieces. These T-shirts and bondage wear are probably worth more than the rest of the collection put together. Unfor-

tunately, it is not for hire. What is for hire is a fulllength gold military-style dress with epaulettes and all the trimmings; a pair of Seventies' loon-pants with matching platform boots and Superfly shirt, or a pair of furry moon boots. There are clothes for men and women, but be prepared to a selection of masks, capes spend some time rummaging to Heather greets you there find the outfit you've always fan-

Wardrobe, Angels & Bermans is a collection of clothes and costumes primarily designed to be hired out to the wardrobe departments of film and theatre companies. "We are absolutely inundated at the moment," said their spokesperson. "Seventies' outfits are always very

popular. There are lots of

James Bond parties at the mo-

ment, too. Angels & Bermans is the obvious choice for society partygoers in need of a little fancy dress. There are four floors of stuff, ranging from the Romans and Greeks (people actually hire costumes for toga parties, rather than simply wrapping themselves in an old sheet) to Star Trek and Alien. Dangerous Liaisons and 18th century costumes are in great demand right now, too. Costume hire

costs from £60+VAT for a week. Over in London's Spitalfields. Stagestruck Costume when it might prove useful or. Company is doing a roaring trade. The phones don't stop ringing with requests to hire pieces, ranging from theatrical to vintage. There are also contemporary evening clothes, and

and other accessories to buy. up the business two years ago, allow time for fittings

Like The Contemporary aiming particularly at the party market. "We put together a whole look. The hire fee includes everything - accessories, jewellery and false evelashes, if necessary.

Stagestruck is getting a lot of work from people in the City, where theme parties are de rigueur. And top of the list? Seventies' nights, of course, closely followed by Grease, James Bond, Cowboys & Indians and Titanic. Already they are sourcing party wear for the Millennium: "We have created a lot of androgynous and futuristic costumes, and there's a lot of nos-

talgia for historical costumes." Of course, costume hire is only worth it if the costume is a one-off ,or if, like those at Stagestruck, it includes the right accessories. Anyone with a little imagination can make their own. Or if it's a vintage dress you're after, buy rather than hire - you never know more likely, back in fashion.

Angels & Bermans, 119 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2; Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 10-6; Wednesday and Thursday 12-8; enquiries 0171-836 5678. Arrive at least Cyril Ives and his partner set one hour before closing to



Gold full-length dress with gold military epaulettes, and gold shoes, all to hire from The Contemporary Wardrobe Collection, The Horse Hospital, Colonnade, Bloomsbury London WC1, enquiries 6171-713 7370; prices range from £25 for individual items to £55 for full outfits, with accessories, for three days hire; black skirt with multi-coloured pleat, £47 to hire for seven days, from Stagestruck Costume Company, 41 Brushfield Street, Spitalfields, London E1; opening times Monday to Friday 10-7; Saturday and Sunday 11-4; enquiries 0171-375 1580

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(it can't be a man.)

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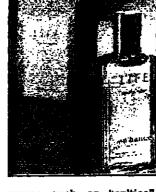
Mmm, smells like Christmas If alcohol doesn't get you in the mood, try perfume. By Belinda Morris

DOES IT feel as though it's going to be one of those Christmases? You know, the usual thing - frantic, fraught and fractious with plenty of frayed tempers and tense shoulder muscles? Wouldn't it be great if you could invoke a little harmss jiggery-pokery, sometime wound now (just to give it time to work) and know that by the big day, all around you will

have miraculously become

serene and harmonious? Yes, OK, you can do this with drugs and alcohol, but their powers are limited, temporary and not without a certain risky unpredictability. What you really need is a magic potion. Something seemingly innocent, not too dramatic, but with the spin on scent, as a sort of safe capability of rendering the can-mood-altering substance. tankerous contented, perhaps. And if it could also double as a uniform in design, Life is the re-ful and competing. I wanted Christmas present for the person who thinks they have

What we probably don't need is another new perfume, but Life is a little different. It's a collection of six individual fragrances, launched simultimeously (without fanfare) and stockists of their beautifully packaged smellies). Lev's pasnot to run with the pack. With



names such as "en'tice", names "en'trance", "en name and "en'gage" and "en'gage" and to "en'chant", they'll appeal to those who like to put a spiritual

Fashionably minimal and sult of a rather exotic three-way collaboration. Lev Glazman everything, so much the better left his native Russia in the Seventies and, with his partner Alina Roytberg, established the US-based natural bodycare line, Fresh (Browns and Liberty being among the UK sion for scent is shared by the room and think: What do I order: 0171-734 1234

British perfumer, Lyn Harris. mood am I in?™ says Lev, who "I read about her company, Mio, in Arena, and knew that I

had to meet her," Lev explains. "It seemed very ahead of her time, with an elegant approach that looked beautiful. We did meet. We obviously had a similar vision and I knew that we could create great energy and anteed to protect you against dynamics together." For six years, Lev and Alina had been nurturing the idea of a special, niche fragrance for Fresh and now, with a Paris and Grassetrained perfumer on board, reality was a little nearer.

"My brief," says Lyn, "was to create a mood range of fragrances that would not only make you smell nice, but feel good too. They had to be breezy rather than in-yer-face powerthem to include a lot of natural ingredients, particularly food ones like basil, bergamot and mint, which work well with the body, infiltrating it rather than

sitting on top of it." But why six? "We want to give customers the freedom of choice, not dictate one smell to them. You can go to your bath-

third member of the team: a want to wear today? What admits that his life is practically ruled by fragrance. "They can change a mood - a fragrance can affect wellbeing. It's almost protective, like surrounding yourself with an aura."

A nice thought, if a tad fanciful - and it isn't actually guarseasonal gremlins. However, you could give it a go, because out of six, there ought to be at least one that, as Lev promises, "if you completely give in to it, will come at you". He advises trying them all on blotters first, then spraying a maximum of three on the body without rubbing them in.

There are two that Lev recommends for winter: "bold and organic" en'gage, with tangerine and orange top notes blended with spicy basil on a rich base of vetiver and amber, and en'tice, which he describes as "moody and desirable" with fruit and citrus notes boosted by tuberose, orange flower, jonquil, vanilla and woods.

Life, £43-£46, only from Liberty, Regent St, London W1. Mail



um of £28 must be crodikel, Refer to in pack Up 2 You service golds for full terms legistered in England Ho. 872043. A Thorn Geoppay.

It's a simple case of lost principals

Contrary to popular belief (and management spin), it's not just the Royal Opera that's in trouble. Its sister company the Royal Ballet is too. John Percival and Nadine Meisner weigh up its chances of survival

t Gerald Kaufman's parliamentary invesigation last year into the situation at the Royal Opera House, ivien Duffield, the theatre's deputy chairman, leaned into the microphone and stated that artistic levels were "higher than they have ever been before". She must have a short memory.

The official line is also that the Royal Ballet meets the highest international standards. This runs counter to our experience, namely that the best companies abroad offer more excitement and skill. Besides, companies with the highest international standards are not usually so careless as to lose one leading man, followed by five others in the space of a few weeks. It sug-gests a malaise within the Royal Ballet, and the departures are a symptom of this.

Perhaps he is too upset, perhaps he doesn't want to be confrontational, but the company's director, Anthony Dowell, won't talk to us. Usually he is understanding when dancers leave for a career change. But this exodus was just too much: first the Japanese dazzle-artist, Tetsuya Kumakawa, then the others, who on 20 November handed Dowell their resignations shortly before curtain up in Belfast. The "Famous Five" (Stuart Cassidy, Michael Nunn, William Trevitt, Gary Avis. Matthew Dibble) were not exactly famous before their carefully orchestrated announcement that they and Kumakawa were forming a large British-based company, with orchestra, a female corps of 24, and generous financial backers.

Twenty years ago, Dowell, a far more famous dancer, took indefinite leave to join American Ballet Theatre. "When you get to a certain point," he had explained, "unless you have new ballets all the time to keep vou stimulated, it's very hard." How were the Royal Ballet to replace him? "Things go on," he said. "They are not going to stop without me."

However, today's story is not about one individual leaving for new as creative a force as when I first challenges with an established company. Reasonably contented dancers do not collectively jump ship for what imagine they would have liked." is, after all, an uncertain venture,



Top right, the exodus leader, Tetsuya Kumakawa; above, Royal Ballet director Anthony Dowell, in the company's production of The Sleeping Beauty'

where the company is at the moment, that they are prepared to make that break," says Bruce Sansom, one of the only two leading men (with Jonathan Cope) remaining from last year. "The company is not joined 15 years ago. They have not been creatively pushed in the way I

How will the Royal Ballet fill the

lavish salaries. "It says a lot about talent is nowhere as strong as in Dowell's performing days? Moreover as Sansom points out, the Royal Ballet's apostolic succession, that link through generations which has contributed to its style, has now been broken. "When I started." says Sansom. "I learnt from the company's principals. You either accepted what they did or you didn't, but it became part of your memory bank." The company's young men

although the Russian star Irek Mukhamedov has been relegated to guest status and, inexplicably, the gifted new Cuban recruit, Carlos Acosta, has few roles so far.

Things, though, might have been even worse. During recent pay negotiations, at least 20 dancers thought of quitting. The new ROH chairman, Colin Southgate, and his Board, as part of a funding deal with the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, tried to impose savage new terms of 36 weeks annual employment, with longer hours and littie or no over-This

actually widened the gap between the rest of the ployees; and they would

worse off than their opposite numbers in Birmingham Royal Ballet and English Na-

The Governors of the Royal Ballet, an independent board established by the company's Royal Charter to safeguard its interests. saw the danger of dancers haemorrhaging away. They pressed hard to preserve full-year contracts. Aware that some dancers were so upset they wanted the company to break away from Covent Garden, their chairman, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, commissioned a feasibility report into this last-resort measure. Fortunately, the Governors managed to convince the Opera House Board (described by one insider as staggeringly ignorant about ballet) to let go of their business ethics, and accept that what might, on paper, make good commercial sense, bore no relation to how a ballet company must operate. So now the dancers have a good settlement, with concessions which will facilitate more broadcasts - if TV

companies are willing to take this up. But that is only a first step in a recovery plan that needs to overhaul radically the artistic direction, manof the ROH. Enter Michael Kaiser, the

last month. Much hope is invested in his ability to cure financially sick arts companies - most recently, American Ballet Theatre. He also has the rare distinction of being genuinely enthusiastic about ballet as well as opera.

The dancers apparently believe he will take their interests to heart. His chief aim is "a return to putting the artist first" and he looks forward to "a much more aggressively creative period in a supportive environment" - which would be a welcome change from the ballet's boringly cautious programmes over recent years. He believes a bold repertory can be made viable by stirring up public excitement. He also has ideas for dropping ticket prices on certain nights ,and for free performances in the ROH's new studio theatre. But even this shining white knight rides in with one disadvantage - namely that all his experience has been in the United States, where tax laws favour donors, and sponsors are more numerous.

Another big question is whether Dowell, as artistic director, and Anthony Russell-Roberts, as administrator, can help give the balagerial structures, and whole ethos let fresh life. For years, they have presided over its decline, sanctory focused posed potpull in the

Dowell is a shy, insular figure, when the Royal Ballet needs an inspirational and publicity-conscious leader Russell-Roberts now talks of a broader range of new and existing works. Mark Baldwin and Michael Corder are creating pieces for the next months; Christopher Bruce and Siobhan Davies have also been approached. The improved stage facilities of the new theatre will allow more programmes and premieres annually, although for financial reasons, full year-round performances are not expected until the 2001-2 season. Another benefit will be the Studio Theatre with about 400 seats, where young choreographers will be tried out, without much expenditure

Crucial will be reform at the Royal Ballet School, traditionally the source of new recruits. If standards have slipped, part of the blame lies at the roots. It is significant that even if they have been promised present gap, given that the available will instead have to look to outsiders, new executive director, who started tioning fewer performances, and a David Bintley at Birmingham Royal gaining its glorious standards.

Ballet now recruits most dancers from outside.

A question mark remains with the ROH Board's decision to create a new post of overall artistic director. If the chosen candidate is an opera person, Kaiser will need to redouble his efforts for the ballet, which has long been treated as the family's tiresome junior member. It also remains to be seen how much power either Kaiser or the new artistic director will have, with a chairman who has shown a very hands-on attitude and a deputy chairman (Vivien Duffield), with the view that important donors as herself should be entitled to representation on the board "as a quid pro quo".

Is the Royal Opera House to be the bauble of the ultra-rich who can buy into its control, or a genuinely public property with an adequate subsidy? We have seen too much harm done by boards of amateurs operating in their spare time, meddling with the work of professionals who are paid to be accountable, focused and knowledgeable. Until the Government sorts this out, the fimdamental flaws will remain. We risk losing the opportunity to put the Royal Ballet on the path towards re-

He's meaty, beaty, big and bouncy

JAZZ CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE JAZZ CAFE LONDON

ONE OF the complaints about contemporary jazz is that it has no stars to attract an audience. Christian McBride, who is certainly larger than life, is doing his best. He loves the showmanship of the job. Like his Verve label-mate. Roy Hargrove, he thrives in front of an audience. For someone like Hargrove, a mercurial little fellow who plays trumpet, it's easy to grandstand. But McBride has, for the most part, to stand with an upright bass, besides encouraging his small, disciplined group of postboppers into their best form.

Since he is as young as he is the won't turn 30 until the next century - even though he seems like a veteran of the scene already) jazz has had to take its place with other kinds of black music in his affections. His admiration for James Brown is unstinting and constant. Yet his great gift is for fashioning the kind of steady, supple jazz time which seems effortless. It is actually one of the trickiest elements in playing, and because he does it so well, McBride is always in demand by other leaders.

The Jazz Café was lucky, then, to catch his band and find them in prime fettle. His most recent record, A Family Affair, is often one of those mishmashes which major labels try to get out of players who have a broad range of sympathies. but here the music had seriousness and vitality in a nearperfect balance. "A Family Affair" itself, the old Sly Stone tune, became a serenely swinging essay on hard-bop blues.



Christian McBride: steady and supple David Sinclair

Tim Warfield is a tenor saxophonist of unhurried, steadfast. demeanour. He's rather like the old-time Chicago soul tenormen, and his tone is as broad as a church door. Rodney Green, at 19 another in the seemingly inexhaustible line of brilliant young jazz drummers, fired off dazzling rhythmic licks while breaking so little sweat that he felt no need to remove his jacket. Pianist a pity. Jazz needs him. Sheldrick Mitchell completes a RICHARD formidable group. His solos are compendiums of McCoy A version of this review ap-Tyner's favourite phrases, but his comping behind the other

players showed unexpected

delicacy and wit. If McBride's records are something of a truce between styles, his live playing is a celebration. Soul and jazz are rarely combined as well as this, and his playing mirrors the band: virtuosic, massive, intense. He has spoken of making a straight R&B record, but that would be a distraction and

RICHARD COOK

peared in later editions of yes-

The power in Russia's heart

adopted parent... sympathetic... generous, and unkind only to admirers of Tchaikovsky".

Never knowingly unstinting in his praise, Stravinsky then added: "Obviously there was nothing profound, either in Rimsky's nature, or in his music." Perhaps, with Christmas approaching and London concert life given over to "nothsky's music the perfect choice Orchestra's brief festival.

A feast of Rimsky-Korsakov alone might be a little rich. even for this time of year, and Sunday's concert, conducted by Alexander Lazarev, offered Rimsky's opera Kashchey the *immortal* alongside Glazunov's sombre, but not unduly solemn, piece that shows just how

STRAVINSKY ONCE described Prelude to the Memory of Rim-Rimsky-Korsakov as "like an sky-Korsokov, and Stravinsky's 1911 Firebird suite.

No doubt Stravinsky would feel thoroughly grumpy about having his first great masterpiece served as a kind of bonne bouche for Kashchey ("The librettos of his operas... are, on the whole, embarrassingly bad"), but the juxtaposition was telling, and not only because of shared narrative charing profound", that makes Rim- acteristics. The Firebird can seem an unfocused piece, but for the London Philharmonic Lazarev and his players found a proper theatricality; the brass a little raw, as it should be, the strings menacing in their low thrum. Lazarev, prancing like a giant firebird himself, went wholeheartedly for the big gestures, making the "Infernal Dance" a terrifying climax to a

cert. Takemitsu's sublime

Rain Tree Sketch II, and Tris-

tan Murail's charming tribute,

Cloches d'adieu et un sourire,

found their most profound

resonances during Rosemary

Hardy's beguiling account of

cycle, Chants de terre et de

ciel, and the exhilarating per-

formance of the wartime Vi-

sions de l'Amen by pianists

Donohoe's recital, Neumes ru-

thrniques and Canteyodjaya.

date from a brief period of

radical experimentation (1949-

51), to which only the brief

Piano piece no 3 by Stock-

hausen suggested a kinship. It took a pleasant stroll

from the Adrian Boult Hall,

through Birmingham's in-

creasingly impressive and ex-

The two Messiaen pieces in

CLASSICAL LPO RIMSKY-KORSAKOV **FESTIVAL** ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

LONDON much Stravinsky learnt from lessons with Rimsky.

Nothing in Kashchey had quite the same impact. Rimsky described his one-act opera as an "autumn fairy-tale", and as in all good fairy-tales, surface good cheer is always mitigated by an underlying melancholy. Yet with its magic potions, flying Storm Knights and a daughter who becomes a weeping willow, it needs more forthright presentation than this rather stiff concert performance. Lazarev had a cast of

from the opera house, although Marina Shaguch sang well: this was no conventional fairy-tale

The previous Thursday, plenty of sulphur in the voice. Mark Elder's rather congested company of Glinka, Mussorgsky and Stravinsky again. Unlike Lazarev, Elder is at home with sweeping grandiloquence, and has the commitment to convince us that there's more to Rimsky than glittery orchestration. It would have been good to get more of The London Philharmonic May Night than the Act One excerpts he offered, but in Mariregulars from the Kirov and the anna Tarasova, Vsevolod Bolshoi, and it was bracing to Grivnov and Paata Burchu- Festival Hall (0171 960 4242)

hear Russian sung by Rus-sians, but only the rumbling alities to match his own. bass of Vladimir Matorin's Tarasova was particularly im-Storm Knight felt like a figure pressive, not a barnstorming mezzo, but warmiy musical and matched to Grivnov's Italianate tenor. And if Burchuladze maiden, but a vengeful princess is not quite so weighty a bass singing a sweetly lethal lullaby. as he once was, still there's

Rimsky's operas may have programme put Rimsky in the been comforting stories Tsanst Russia told itself when times were hard, but these performances proved that they had a still potent brilliance that sparkles as brightly as any Christmas bauble.

NICK KIMBERLEY

plays Rimsky-Korsakov, Sibelius and Brahms, 7.30pm, Thursday 17 December, Royal

Homage to the master of birdsong

OLIVIER MESSIAEN would parent during the Friday conhave been 90 last Thursday. With the BBCSO devoting an entire weekend in January to featuring Messiaen's music, the Birmingham wing of the BBC made their contribution last week through a series of broadcasting concerts, aiming to explore the context of Messiaen's music within the present century.

Messiaen was certainly not averse to thinking in terms of broad structure and lengthy timescales, so be would not have been daunted by the prospect of three concerts on Thursday evening, supplemented by a further lengthy concert the following night. For those unfamiliar with Messiaen's music, the relevance of most of the works in Peter Donohoe's enjoyable opening piano recital would only have became fully apparding cultural quarter, to get

CLASSICAL OLIVIER MESSIAEN BIRTHDAY CONCERT **CBSO CENTRE** BIRMINGHAM

to the evening's main event, a their teacher's early song three-part concert given by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under George Benjamin, at their very smart. new, multi-functional base the CBSO Centre. Peter Hill and Benjamin Frith.

Messiaen's importance as a pedagogue was firmly underlined through works by prominent students, linked only by their diversity. The hardest edge came from Xenakis's raw, yet curiously jaunty, Jalons, while Memoriales radiated a warm haze, with the BCMG capturing the subtle lights and shades of Boulez's dappled light piece.

beautiful lyricism of Alexander Goehr's ...kein Gedanke, nur ruhiger Schlaf. Nevertheless, two Messiaen works rightly stole the red, blue, green and gold show, thanks in part to the extraordinary pianism of Pierre-Laurent Aimard. His account of La rousserolle effarvatte

and the next, gloriously reful-

Detlev Müller-Siemens, un-

fortunately suffered from pre-

ceding the exquisitely refined.

had its idiosyncrasies, but, as in the fearsome cadenza in Oiseaux exotiques, he was living the music, becoming in turn each one of the numerous species of birds. As well as being an avid or-

nithologist. Messiaen was a profoundly religious composer. Stating the obvious, of

jamin's At First Light was at course, but this aspect of his one moment calmly lambent, art was not broached until quite literally, the 11th hour. gent. The wry melancholy of Following a 20-minute trudge, Light Blue, Almost White, by during which the eyes were numbed by the sight of tarmac and the glare of car headlights, the hitherto absence of references to Catholicism was underlined in gilt upon entering the opulence of Birmingham Oratory, with the pungent

colours of its mosaics. The late hour actually added to the atmosphere of Gillian Weir's recital and if the Nicholson organ struggled with some of the quieter dynamics, and Joie et clorte des Corps Glorieux took on the character of a stylophone in need of Valium, it had sufficient power to deliver awe-inspiring conclusion of

CHRISTOPHER DINGLE

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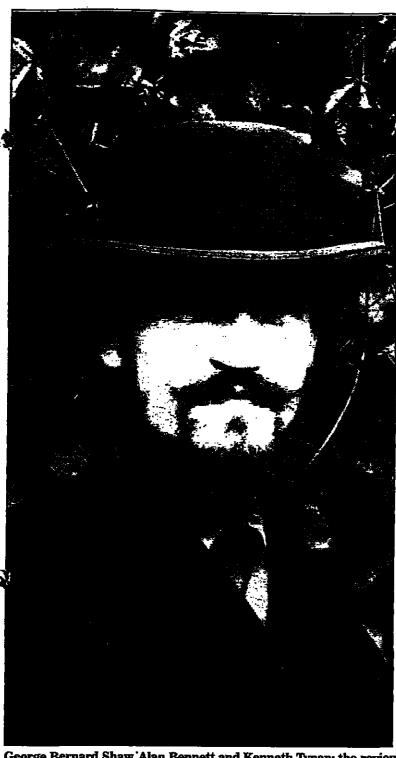
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George Bernard Shaw, Alan Bennett and Kenneth Tynan: the reviewers' prime duty is to keep the level of debate surrounding a play or production as high as possible and its manner entertaining

Postcards from the proscenium

A bad film review means bad box office, but the movie itself remains unaffected. By contrast, a theatre review can change a production. In the fourth part of our week-long series on criticism, we examine the role of the theatre critic. By Paul Taylor

tricia Routledge is heard to declare: "I don't believe in speaking ill of anyone. If I've something nasty to say, I pop it on a postcard."

At its considerable worst, that is all that newspaper reviewing is: popping it on a postcard - the only difference being that the postcard is sent to thousands of homes and has a factly classy address at the top. A wir Acritics are, after all, powerful only by virtue of their temporary position. So a good rule when you are writing a review is to imagine it anonymously scrawled in Biro on a crumpled scrap of paper picked up from the pavement the next day by a member of the public. Would it still arrest that person with its cogency of argument, vividness of evocation, and lightly worn authority? Or would it be held at arms' length and hastily dropped in a bin?

Theatre reviewing has certain distinctive features that can make it an even trickier and more treacherous iness than criticism of the visunot by imagination, much less description, be recovered to a part of that spirit it had in the gliding by."

By struggling to preserve and analyse the spirit which a production had in the gliding by, theatre criticism attempts to prove that Jonson was being unduly defeatist here.

Of course, any critic who got swollen-headed and made a show of writing for posterity would be behaving not only immodestly but counter-productively. Theatre is inherently a social activity: an energy between actors and audience in a particular space at a particular moment - an image of society facing itself. So the best way a critic can serve posterity is by fulfilling his first duty: to communicate to those of his contemporaries who weren't there what the occasion felt like and what thoughts it provoked.

The advent of video recordings of productions has not destroyed, nor will it, this historical function of the theatre critic. It's not just that - as

henever I pon- al arts, cinema and TV. Unlike a anyone who has heard a gramoder the subject painting or a movie, a theatrical pro- phone record of Gielgud's Richard of theatre criti-duction vanishes - the evanescence II or the preserved squeaking of cism in news- of the experience beautifully evoked Ellen Terry will attest - theatrical I'm by Ben Jonson who wrote, of one of fashions date alarmingly quickly reminded of a his masques: "The envy was that it and need contextualising. It's that, produced stuff is on the level of old home movie footage of a party nobody living was invited to.

Another distinctive feature of theatre is that a production is a workin-progress (or regress) for the whole of its life and therefore especially exposed to the interventions pan a piece of work but, in so doing, they don't risk changing its nature. By contrast, try going to a performance of a stage comedy on the night after bad reviews have appeared. The event is unnaturally an audience prejudiced from the outset. This process can, of course,

skewed as the cast battle to win over equally be constructive. Take the case of the much rewritten musical Martin Guerre, now in its third incarnation at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and all the better for hav-

ing taken on board the criticisms made of its two West End versions. Theatre is also a peculiarly embattled medium, constantly having



THE CRITICAL CONDITION

of critics. An art or film reviewer may its obituary notice trotted out by fashionable types whose minds are serenely unbiased by any recent research. There is, therefore, the charge that critics are too complicit with the theatrical establishment, overrating things on principle and providing managements with screaming superlatives in order to raise their own diminished profile and to ensure that their particular trade survives (there's a fair bit of of the constructive iconoclast.

> Conversely, there's the charge that we are all too professionally jaded to rise to the occasion. It's a no-win scenario, amusingly illustrated by a passage in Alan Bennett's quate, the extraordinary is raging to Diaries. Noting that Steven Berkoff

had described critics as "worn-out old tarts", Bennett rejoins: "If only they were, the theatre would be in a better state. In fact, critics are more like dizzy girls, out for the evening, just longing to be fucked and happy to be taken in by any piausible rogue who will flatter their silly heads while knowing roughly the

whereabouts of their private parts." Peter Brook in The Empty Space made a similar point more soberly when he wrote that: "A critic is always serving the theatre when he is hounding out incompetents. If he spends most of his time grumbling, he is almost always right." Not that he should be bellyaching into a void. His complaints should be set against "an image of how theatre should be in his community". It's no accident that Shaw and Tynan, the greatest theatre critics in England this century, both began writing in periods when hidebound theatrical institutions cried out for the devastating wit

In his fine book on theatre criticism, Irving Wardle quotes a lovely phrase from Charles Marowitz: "The quality of imminence: the tacit assumption that behind the inadeget out," which Marowitz sees as the

mark of great reviewing. Not what is, but what could be. In an ideal world, critics would, I suppose, be so eloquent about these sensed possibilities, that the playwrights would be inspired to transform them into living realities Meanwhile, in the actual world,

reviewing space gets tighter. there's a philistine blurring of criticism and news reporting; and even some supposedly civilised papers now put a coded-for-the-consumer range of stars over a review - a practice seemingly designed to free people from the dreadful burden of actually having to peruse it. But it is not serving the reader to allow theatre criticism to dwindle into mere thumbs-up, thumbs-down tipstering, important though that role is. The reviewers' prime duty is to keep the level of debate surrounding a play or production as high as possible and its manner entertaining. Bad critics try to second-guess the taste of their audience and cravenly pander to it. I know of one broadsheet paper that would not let its reviewer cover productions at the Gate Theatre at a time when that fringe venue was winning every award in sight. Why? "Because our make sure it's not too unprepos-

such circularity of thinking. As James Fenton once put it: "This is the spirit of critical timidity: I can't stand this new piece, but, oh dear Johnny Public is going to love it, so I'd better watch my words." Above all, you have to guard against both personal and cliqueish complacency. Every theatre reviewer should have pinned over his or her desk the following remarks by Harold Pinter: "There is a definite and amusing resistance on the part of the London

logic, of course, they never will.

A critic needs to break through

critics to a writer doing anything at all different... The critics don't like play 'C', but . when play 'D' comes along, they point immediately to the virtues that play 'C' possessed and regard play 'D' as the deviation." As the past year has demonstrated, fixed ideas about what constitutes drama would bar you from imaginative entry into a lot of new works. An open mind is not the same as an empty one. It's as well to take

care, for when the waters of theatrical creativity have gurgled down the plughole of oblivion, the critic's words are the grimy tidemark left round the edges of the bath. Better readers don't go the Gate." By that sessing a sight.

ON THE FRINGE

THE DEMON HEADMASTER PLEASANCE, LONDON III ID YOUNG VIC STUDIO, LONDON

IT DOESN'T take much in the way of brains to work out what The Demon Headmaster is about. We all know the type: the beak hell-bent on world domination, able to hypnotise his or her pupils in order to get results. It's hardly surprising that the drama series, based on the book by Gillian Cross, has become one of Children's BBC's biggest success stories.

At the Pleasance, the idea of creating a spin-off musical must have sounded as exciting as the drone of an overhead aircraft to an island castaway. But unpleasant things happen if you don't get to grips with the basics. The problem with The Demon Headmaster, the musical, is that there isn't a single song that justifies its existence incredibly, there isn't even a solo

for the neo-Dickensian Head (the suitably stern-looking former teacher, Roger Parrott). Matthew White's production boasts keen central performances, a nice cardboard cut-out set and some droll moments but the show is mind-numbing. Eric Angus and Cathy Shostak contribute unspectacular rock backdrops or Iain Halstead and Paul James's would-be anthems



"The Demon Headmaster' at the Pleasance

which chase after catchiness with all the wasted enthusiasm of a dog that thinks it's been thrown a stick.

At best, songs like "The Worst Class in the World" ("We're the last resort and we can't be taught") convey the scruffy rebelliousness that unites the five members of SPLAT ("the Society for the Protection of our Lives Against Them"), while padding out the gang's creaking plots to stop the HM and his brainwashed minions. But in the main, the lame lyrics insult the young audience's intelligence.

These adolescent heroes, outcast from their peer-group, aren't know-alls, but that doesn't mean they're stupid.

Id, a new project by the learning disabled theatre company, Strathcona at the Young Vic Studio, is concerned with drawing a similar distinction, though the emphasis is as much on appearance as on IQ. The piece explores the thoughtless marginalisation of those with learning difficulties. If the intent sounds worthy, the directors - Ann Cleary and Ian McCurrach - go out of their way

to defeat expectation. The action is principally set

in a Victorian "human 200"; organ music piping away in the background, the ringmaster, Frankie Roquespeare (Spencer Ababio), urges us to admire his "fabulous freaks of nature" as they perform magic tricks. The story charts the lives of one of the six "uglies", Malady the Mongolboy (Pius Hickey), and his twin brother, the handsome Beau (Sheldon Antoine), from separation to reunion.

I found it an uncomfortable but compelling two hours. The scenario is tilted sufficiently to the past for it to be a moving tribute to those for whom this kind of exploitation was often the only rescue from the workhouse. At the same time, for the non-disabled, a sense of shame is never far away, although the light-hearted script sweetens the guilt-trip. PC theatre fit for a post-PC age. Now there's an oddity.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

The Demon Headmaster'. Pleasance, London, N7 (0171-609 1800) until 9 January; 'id', Young Vic, London, SE1 (0171-928 6363) until 23 December

Turkish delight for Christmas night

THE ART of acting meets its greatest challenge when confronted by an audience of children. It has to be a special deal. The show has to be constructed with children in mind, and performed with solemn intent. It was reported that an invited audience of Plymouth children ran amok recently when the RSC thought they might be captured by the villainy and

heroics of The Merchant of Venice. Fortunately, children's theatre has its own practitioners. Bill Buffery's Orchard Theatre production of The Cinder Girl enraptured an audience of Somerset schoolchildren at the Brewhouse in Taunton for two hours. Not a rustle, no shouting, no scrambling on the floor after a lost tooth, just appreciative giggles, and sighs of contentment. Buffery writes, directs and acts, and knows how to connect.

The Cinder Girl, set in Arabian Nights country (well, Istanbul), is dazzling to watch. It has a talking (and flying) camel, a recipe for making Turkish Delight, and a princess who talks utter nonsense and makes it sound reasonable.

This is all done with mime and ron, and Melanie Baxter-Jones. Alibi 01392-217315

REVIEW

THE CINDER GIRL/ THE NIGHT BEFORE **CHRISTMAS** ON TOUR

imagination, and a touch of Goonish humour. It is clear that mimed slapstick is just as effective as splattering everyone with shaving foam. Children will accept that flour and eggs and jelly is being applied in mime, as effectively as in reality. Transformations can be accepted before your very eyes, without blackouts, drum rolls, flash tape and smoke. If the children are captured by the story, they use their compensating imagination.

Like all Buffery's productions, The Cinder Girl is presented on the level. No kidding, this is real. The children, it seemed, appreciated the absence of patronage. The show proceeds smoothly with bags of charm and simple theatrical ef-Rachel Thorne's po-faced lead, Gill

who, working as a team, weave a spell of pure wonder.

Theatre Alibi are another group with expertise in the same field. In the adult theatre world they produce original and devised performances, a technique that works well for children. The Night Before Christmas is three stories (by Dan Jamieson). performed by Emma Rice and Henry Hawkes, and directed by Nikki Sved, which filled Dartington's Barn Theatre.

The performers use an informal approach, establishing a rapport before the show starts, and the stories themselves feature beguiling puppets, which are just lifted around, without any attempt to imitate real life, back-screen projection, and original instruments made by Dave Sawyer (hand chimes, and a zither like an autoharp), plus thrilling wordless singing.

ALLEN SADDLER

"The Cinder Girl' and The Night Befects. An undoubted triumph for fore Christmas' are touring the West Country before Christmas. Nathanson, Buffery, Justin McCar- For details: Orchard 01271-371475.

Gifts for Gordon Gekkos Planning for

There are plenty of get-rich-quick guides for your fiscally-minded friends. By Iain Morse



Wall Street's masters of the universe didn't get where they are without reading all the latest financial planning books

introduction to some aspect of fi-nancial planning could be the an-Valuable sections are include swer. By happy coincidence there is no shortage of writers willing to offer sure-fire, cast-iron, get-rich-quick guides to investment.

But take care when you decide just which title your friends or relatives should receive. For instance, if you are hoping to inherit from a rich maiden aunt, giving her a guide to emerging markets or hedge funds could turn out to be a very expensive error.

Tony Grainger's How to Finance Business Books), is a workaday introduction to the whole subject of retirement planning. Its main focus is on pension provision, but this is integrated with chapters on lumpsum investment and long-term care. It's an entry-level guide.

The Pocket Pensions Guide, by

personal pension mis-selling and how you can seek compensation for tracking down "frozen" entitlement in schemes offered by previous employers, and current legislation on pensions and divorce. Strongly recommended.

These days, anyone investing in shares has to decide whether to buy them direct, or through collective investments,like unit and investment trusts. Most of us take the latter course. Joanna Slaughter's Your Retirement (£7.99, Century Guide to Investment Trusts & Unit Trusts (£15.99, FT Pitman) is an even-handed introduction to the strengths and weaknesses of each type of investment, winning an award in its category for plain English and the way it explains an

inherently complex subject matter. However, tracker funds do not Robin Ellison. (£14.99, Prentice Hall appear in the index, while PEPs get Europe) is an excellent handbook for only a single chapter. Elsewhere, Ms

someone who doesn't de- sion provision. Covering the state manage an investment portfolio, serve anything more ex- pension system, it then looks at including the effects both of income citing? A good basic further provision both for the and capital gains tax. A good value middle-level guide.

> techniques used in investment decisions, Caroline Sefton's A-Z of Investment (£16.99, FT Pitman) offers a jargon-free introduction to complex subject matter. For instance, you may never buy share options using a "straddling and strangling technique", but at least if a stranger sits next to you on a park bench and talks about it, mutual misunderstanding can be avoided. This book also contains a valuable - if brief - section on investment software, including names and addresses of firms' marketing programmes for use at home which have won the approval of the

If you decide to invest directly in shares, it might pay to read Roy Warren's How to Understand and Use Company Accounts (£12.99, Century Business Books). This gives a concise explanation of con-

Investors' Chronicle.

pany gearing and interest cover. Understanding company acc-

ounts is also a useful preliminary to reading Jim Slater's Zulu Markets Work, (£10, Century) is noire of Private Eye's City Slickers column, made a pile of money. But if you expect his "10-step guide to wealth creation" to give away secrets, you will be disappointed. In fact, Jim's formula for stock market success looks pretty much like everyone else's: buy undervalued shares and wait for them to go up in value, making sure you sell

before the market peaks. Richard Koch's Selecting Shares that Perform (£20.99, Pitman) includes the unique "1-2-3 test", designed by that "great American sage of human behaviour", Hai Leavitt. Completing the test will tell which investments you should buy. It starts by asking whether you believe in God, before wanting to know: "Which of the next three characters are you most like or least unlike: (a) Hitler (b) the Daleks, or (c) Attila the Hun?"

TUCK FOR last-minute anyone in work who is seeking both Slaughter gives a concise cepts like "return on equity", com- Why leave out Saddam Hussein? Christmas presents for to plan and to maximise their pen-explanation of how to choose and pany gearing and interest cover. Best not to expect too much from Best not to expect too much from

Colin Chapman's How the Stock Principle (£12.99 Orion Business more a narrative than analytic price setting, aimed at middle-brow readers. It could be read with Charles Vincent's Be Your Own Stockbroker (£20.99, Pitman) which takes a classical step-by-step approach to concepts like "price-toearnings ratios" and explains how to use them. Space is given both to "fundamental value" and bar chart analysis as competing methods of stock selection. Workmanlike in its approach, ranging from the introductory to intermediate.

> Finally, a word must be said about tax guides, not least because of the introduction of self assessment. The Allied Dunbar Tax Handbook (£26.99, updated annually) is daddy to them all. Written in sections by chartered accountants, this book could save you from having to pay anyone to fill out your tax return. That has to be worth raising your glasses to this Christmas.

a healthy retirement

CAROL IS is 35 and works for a

firm of solicitors with an income of £48,500 pa. She has been with them for two years and expects to stay for the foreseeable future. She owns her own house, worth £160,000 with a mortgage of £110,000. Last year, an IFA had

recommended two personal pension policies amounting to £400 pm, as her company did not provide a scheme. Carol was feeling very settled in her home and work. Her nagging doubts about her apparent financial security centred on "what if it all went wrong?". She wasn't worried about being made redundant, but she was concerned about anything happening to her health.

The Research We looked into the two pensions and reviewed the charges and the investment performance record, and estimated whether the contributions would be enough to provide her with an adequate income in retirement. We also checked the terms and rates of her savings account.

Our new recommendations centred around income replacement (known as permanent health insurance -PHI) and critical illness benefit (CIB). Carol was not interested in private medical insurance. PHI policies provide an

income if you are unable to work due to accident or illness. One of the most important decisions is about the "deferred period". This simply means how long you have to be off work before the policy starts to pay. Most PHI policies offer deferred periods of 1, 3, 6 or 12 months, the premiums being more expensive the shorter the period.

We also looked into the definition of disability, as this can vary greatly from one plan to the next. The best policies will pay out if you cannot do your normal job.

Finally, we considered whether to recommend reviewable or guaranteed premiums. Reviewable initially, but may be adjusted by the insurance company every five years. You therefore run the risk of having the premium increased. Guaranteed premiums cannot be changed

by the insurance company. At this point it is down to cost - which company can offer the lowest premium, for the type of cover required.

Critical illness benefit usually provides a cash sum, free of tax, if you contract one of a list of serious illnesses the most common being cancer, heart attack and stroke. When looking at CIB policies you need to look at which illnesses are covered and how the insurance company defines the illness. This can involve technical medicine, but there is an

THE FIXERS



FIONA PRICE

industry standard definition for the main illnesses covered. As with PHI policies, you also need to consider whether to have reviewable or guaranteed premiums, and then it is down to cost.

In our opinion, the pensions the IFA had recommended last year were excellent. The contribution level was good. but would not be quite enough to provide Carol with enough at age 65. We suggested that she put in additional lump sums from time to time, and perhaps to increase the regular payments when she next received a pay rise.

We also warned her that she would need to put even more in if she wanted to retire before 65. Her pension planning was more costly, as she had left it fairly late before starting.

Her building society deposit account was one that provided a consistently good rate so no change needed here.

Carol's employers would pay her for three months if she couldn't work for health reasons. We could have arranged a contract with a three month deferred period, so that PHI would start exactly when her employer stopped paying her. However, with protection policies, we tend to adopt the approach "only spend as much as you need to get the job done". Carol had money on deposit that she could live on for a few months. We recommended a policy with six month defe

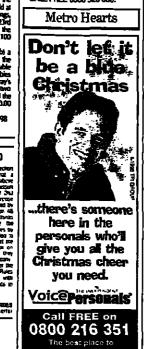
We arranged for the policy to provide £2,000 pm, which she needed to cover her out-goings, and this would be tax-free. The policy would run to age 65 when she planned to retire, and would increase each year in line with inflation.

We considered PHI to be a higher priority than CIB, because Carol's lifestyle depended directly on her income. However we recommended a sum assured of £150,000 which would allow her to pay off her mortgage and still leave a sizeable amount for other purposes.

Fiona Price is managing director of Fiona Price & Partners (0171-430-0366)

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In accordance with Section 992(56) at list of the names and addresses of the Company's Cerdions will be available for importation, fire of charge, at Begbies Tayence, 6 Raynord 8 Buildings, Cary's Inn, London WCTR 1899 on the two business days preceding the date of the Meeting, between the bourn of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.
Dated this 9th day of December 1998 C. Fowler, Director TRADEMOST LIMITED













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The ones that get away

Thousands of us remember to collect our Lottery winnings each week, but forget to claim free shares worth millions. By Clifford German

MILLIONS OF pounds of Premium Bond prizes go unclaimed every year because the holders have disappeared, died or simply moved house without notifying the National Savings register by the time Ernie got round to remembering them. There are a few big National Lottery winners who have failed to claim their prizes for reasons we can only speculate about.

But much larger sums apparently routinely go unclaimed because insurance policy-holders cannot be traced. This week Colonial Mutual, the Australian-based insurance company, revealed that 60,000 of its 370,000 policyholders in the UK have failed to claim free shares worth on average £900 to which they are entitled as a result of Colonial converting into a public company last year. "We have been to great lengths to locate our missing shareholders and are disappointed that such a large number have not been found," Colonial's head of legal services Jacqui Bamford said.

About a third of the missing policy-holders have moved and are untraceable. A mail-out campaign and a call centre are

where they can be found or telling family and friends what being set up in the new year in surance company, Cornhill Life,

policies they have bought. Coincidentally another in-

Twenty per cent of people with life policies have no idea when they mature

an effort to trace the rest. The number of unclaimed windfalls is surprising because millions of Britons have woken up to the possibility of windfalls from building societies converting into banks. But insurance policies are much easier to lose track of because, by definition, they are very long-term

has called this week for the establishment by the Association of British Insurers or the Financial Services Authority of a national register of unclaimed policies to help insurance companies trace holders of an estimated £250m worth of unclaimed policies. Research

shows that 20 per cent of peo-

investments where claims are

only activated when the policy-

holder dies or retires. Many

holders will have died without

leaving the actual policies

ple with life policies have no idea when they mature, more than 10 per cent have not told their insurance companies that they have moved home, nearly 10 per cent have policies which are paid up and are no longer receiving contributions. Astonishingly, it is not nec-

essary for anyone taking out a life policy to nominate a next of kin, although Cornhill is changing its proposal forms to include a request for this information. It sounds like a good time for

all living insurance policyholders to take elementary precautions, making sure that: policies are kept in a safe place; insurance companies are kept up-to-date about changes of address; and, if insurance companies have not asked for next of kin, then at least the intended beneficiaries know what they are entitled to if and when the policy-holder is no longer in position to tell anyone.

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Price war at the pharmacy The Government is going into battle with the drug companies. Expect casualties. By Paul Gosling

overnment attempts o reduce the NHS drugs bill have met with an angry reaction from the country's pharmaceutical industry. Tighter controls on drugs pricing could be enough to tilt the balance and lead to an exodus of leading manufacturers overseas.

Profits on drugs sold to the NHS are controlled by the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS), but the Government believes that this gives the industry too easy a ride. Provisions will be introduced in the National Health Service bill in the current parliamentary year to back up the PPRS with reserve powers, enabling the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, to enforce limits on profits.

"We are quite clear that some [pharmaceutical companies] do not comply (with the PPRS), though most do," said a Department of Health spokeswoman.

The new legislation reinforces a tough line being taken by the Department in negotiations with the industry to renew the PPRS. Discussions began in September and. as the last agreement took 14 months to achieve, it is assumed, at least by the industry, that the revised PPRS will not be in place for

Under the PPRS, the sales, costs and capital transactions of pharmaceutical companies are all monitored to limit the profits made on products sold to the NHS. Where a company begins making excessive profits - more than about a 26 per cent return on capital employed - it is obliged either to reduce prices or repay money to the DoH.

It is clear that health ministers gant to bring down the size of the HS drugs bill as part of their efficiency drive in the NHS. This will be reinforced by the establishment of a National Institute of Clinical Excellence, which will give guidance to doctors on what clinical practices and which drugs are the most effective. But the Government's policy direction is worrying the pharmaceutical industry.

We don't need more regulation of an industry that has been very successful for the country at a time when things aren't as rosy as they were," says Richard Ley, a spokes-British Pharmaceutical Industry. why not move somewhere else?"



Pharmaceutical companies making profits of more than 26 per cent are already obliged to reduce prices or repay the Department of Health

environment for the drugs industry companies themselves moving out. argues the ABPL is a refusal to in- It is also worried about the impact in the UK is being eroded. It says that the legal infrastructure recognising and defending intellectual assets remains a strong advantage for Britain, but it is being undermined by the lack of relevant skills in the UK workforce. British universities are not producing sufficiently good science graduates, says the industry.

Other governments, such as Ireland, are offering important financial incentives to pharmaceutical companies, which the British Govern-'There have been 7,000 jobs lost in $\,\,\,\,$ ment is not matching, suggests the the industry over the last five years. report, "The UK Pharmaceutical We have been a major contributor Industry at a Crossroads". The to Britain's economy - second only ABPI also fears that the elimination to North Sea oil. If the discussions of animal experimentation in the cosgoing on now on the PPRS come out metics industry could lead to rebadly, many companies would say, strictions in their use in the drugs industry - which it says would lead A report published this month by to the same tests being carried the ABPI argues that the supportive out overseas, with some of the

to be a nurtured culture of "scientific entrepreneurship", which might be clustered in centres of learning. "Britain could create a 'geno-valley' that rivalled Silicon Valley." suggests Dr Trevor Jones, the ABPI's on location. But joined-up govern-

The report adds that there needs troduce tougher pricing restrictions in domestic sales. "Any minister of health must get value for money," concedes Dr Jones. "In a global industry you could argue it is an iso-

of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. The ABPI spokesman Richard Ley explains: "The indications are that the emphasis will be on cost not quality. You can spend lated activity that has little impact more up-front and save money in the

'We are a major contributor to Britain's economy. If the discussions come out badly, companies may say, why not move somewhere else?'

here in the Cambridge, Oxford, London triangle. That would require the universities producing a better kind of graduate."

But another key factor in keeping the pharmaceutical companies here.

director general. "We could do that ment should be involved in joinedup policy-making. A board of directors will respond [to tougher price restrictions], why should we is no need for continued price, or accept that?"

just related to changes to the PPRS. medicines, price will increasingly to make concessions easily.

A more effective solution is obvithe drugs market is such that there

rival quality in the competitiveness stakes - thus making profit and price controls obsolescent," its report concludes. "The pharmaceutical industry in the UK is highly competitive, especially in terms of prices, and should be a benchmark for other countries when it comes to market-driven competition." Health minister Alan Milburn

and the Health Secretary Frank Dobson appear sceptical about these claims, but they are keeping their own counsel, hoping that quiet but tough negotiations will achieve more than loud denunciations. The industry takes the opposite line. By taking a vocal public position, raising fears about job losses, it hopes that ous, says the ABPL The strength of the intended tougher price restrictions will be eased.

It will be fascinating to see how profit, regulation. "As competition the negotiations proceed. The stakes The industry's concern is not increases in global markets for new are high, and neither side is going

UPDATE

OWNER-MANAGERS of small businesses could boost their profits by paying their suppliers more quickly, says a survey by Manchester Business School. The study shows that many of these businesses have a reactive approach towards working capital management and planning, which can ultimately lead to cash-flow problems and exposure to volatility in profits. It suggests that, if companies took a more proactive approach, they would be able to take advantage of supplier discounts in order to reduce costs and so increase

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants is urging the clarification and simplification of the law on directors' interests relating to loans, share dealings and other transactions. In a response to the consultative paper on company directors' interests and duties published by the Law Commission and the Law Commission of Scotland, it also calls for a broad indication of the duties owed by a director to his or her company.

ERNST & YOUNG, the accountancy firm, has launched a virtual business school in partnership with Henley Management College. In addition to offering accredited MBAs to E&Y employees, the Networked Business School will link consultants with Henley academics to work on joint research and publications and enable the use of the latest information technology in management development The firm also announced this week that its worldwide revenues increased by just under 20 per cent in the year to the end of September 1998, to \$10.9bn (£6.5bn). It has followed other leading accounting firms in strengthening its global management.

REVELATIONS OF an increase in internal fraud in councils around the country, combined with the changes to government policies on local authority management announced in the Queen's Speech, have led the Institute of Internal Auditors to issue new audit guidance to all local authorities. This gives advice to all bodies wishing to implement the most rigorous internal control and risk management processes to meet the new guidelines.

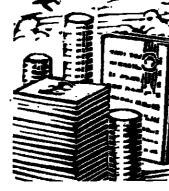
I remember getting a taxi with Jaap...

I KNEW it would turn out to be a horrible mistake. For the past imonth or so, I've been trying to cut down on my drinking by having one glass of water for every glass of wine I consume. But now I see that what I should have been doing was giving my liver a workout for the festive season. Not that it feels very festive right now. Let me explain.

Yesterday was our team Christmas lunch. Rory had booked the private dining-room in a smart restaurant that I've been meaning to try out, one of those fashionable ones with a one-word name like "Neptune" or "Grocery". Anyway, I was dreading it. Not because of the food, you understand, but because of Jaap.

Ever since I found out it was he who organised my get-well-soon flowers when I had flu the other week, I haven't been able to relax in the office. I get butterflies every time he so much as glances in my direction, and when he stands next to my desk to discuss some deal or other I can hardly breathe. A waft of his aftershave makes me go weak at the knees, and if we meet by the coffee machine I'm so nervous I can't speak. It's absurd. Here I am, 25 years old, and I'm behaving like some silly teenager.

Anyway, there was no escaping the lunch and I was glad I hadn't. Heavenly food, and I managed to relax for the #first time in days thanks to



THE TRADER

several spectacular Bloody Marys and a fair measure of champagne. In fact, it all went so well we went on to some drinking place when we'd finished in the restaurant and had a few more refreshments. And suddenly it was 10pm and we'd been drinking for hours and I realised I wanted to go home. The last thing I remember is getting into a taxi and Jaap climbing in after me. After that it's a blank

I woke up this morning with a vile hangover, one of those ones where you hardly dare open your eyes in case your brain slides out of the sockets. I vowed there and then never to touch another drop of alcohol, as you always do when you have a hangover, and stumbled out of bed to fetch a glass of water and some Resolve. And that's when I saw it, of

course: a man's watch on the bedside table

I tried desperately to remember anything after getting into the taxi last night with Jaap, but I couldn't. He must have come back here. explanation. We came back here and we... oh God, please, not that! And now I had to go into the office and see him. I sat on the bed, clutching my head, trying to decide which was worse, the hangover or the shame. I could have wept.

I felt every lurch of the Tube as I struggled bravely into the office, my insides like jelly. So it was a relief to find I was the first one in. That would give me a few minutes at least to compose my mind. But I'd hardly sat down when the phone rang, and it was Olivier. Olivier, my boyfriend. All the shame and horror came flooding back. I had got legless and cheated on my boyfriend after an office party. How hideously, hideously tacky. "Are you all right?" he asked.

"You sound terrible." "I feel terrible," I told him. "I never want another drink again, ever."

He laughed. "You're not the only one. The other morning I was so hungover I lost my watch somewhere. I didn't leave it at your place, did I?"

Olivier's watch. Olivier's watch, not Jaap's. Oh, what a relief.

behind schedule. I'm still going to give up alcohol, though

come back to haunt you If you seem to live outside your means – or just outside the country – the

Inland Revenue might well have its eye on you, warns Roger Trapp

Last year's returns can

WITH THE 31 January 1999 deadline for this year's personal income tax returns looming, it is tempting to think that last year's document has been consigned to history. But that is not the case.

Many taxpayers could find their Christmas post soured by an inquiry from the Inland Revenue. This is because part of the philosophy of selfassessment is that the Revenue can inquire into anybody's tax return for any reason at all. As long as the taxpayer returns the document by 31 January, the authorities only have the next 12 months in which to launch a standard investigation, though it would still be possible to start an inquiry into suspected fraud or incomplete disclosure after that period. However, if a taxpayer is late getting the form back, the Revenue has until the end of the quarter following the first anniversary after the submission of the return to begin an

investigation. Though accountants have seen some inquiries into last year's returns in the past year, there have not been as many as they would have expected. The firms reckon that this is because district tax offices have been so overwhelmed by the introduction of self-assessment that they are significantly

In the old days, this would probably have just led to the deadline of performance targets, it is thought that many offices will be tempted to - in the words of David Williams, tax partner with Smith & Williamson -"keep the door open by launching

some sort of investigation". "T've a feeling there may be quite a lot of inquiries started over the next few weeks," he added. In some cases, the inquiry will be "quite innocuous", but in others - such as where the taxpayer is self-employed it can look more serious.

Though there is a code of practice - in line with the soft image of self-assessment the Revenue has sought to portray with the aid of the mascot "Hector" - the letters can look alarming, says Mr Williams. And anybody in this situation can find that they are dealing with "Hector's rather less friendly brother", he suggests.

Nevertheless, the over-riding message is not to panic. "So long as you co-operate sensibly and truthfully in a reasonable time, the worst thing that will happen should be writing a cheque," says Mr Williams. At the same time, though, he

warns taxpayers to take such investigations seriously. While its larger rival Pricewaterhouse-Coopers is challenging clients to find the funny side to Revenue investigations by playing a game called "Trouble with the taxman", Smith & Williamson reminds them that these passing harmlessly. But in this era investigations do not go away. Not although its game is meant as "a basic rate of income tax.



Hector, the friendly face of the Inland Revenue

surprisingly, it suggests that taxpayers - even if they have filled in the return themselves or used one of the standard tax return services - seek the help of a firm experienced in investigations. Accountants from such a practice will then be able to assess the seriousness of the situation and advise accordingly.

PwC's John Nisbet explains that,

new and thought-provoking way of looking at this subject", the message is that even in-depth investigations of this sort can be survived with the "business and family intact".

Since the Revenue has committed itself to making routine checks on returns, some of these cases can be dealt with quickly, but others will warrant more attention.

In particular, taxpayers need to bear in mind that the Revenue has a system for scoring returns in relation to risk. Accordingly, returns from people who have offshore holdings or are not UK-domiciled for instance, are more likely to attract interest. Similarly, the Revenue is often suspicious of businesses where there is a high cash element and where lifestyles do not match information on returns.

The Revenue also looks at turnover trends, and - according to accountants - has a tendency to assume that they always go up. Accordingly, Mr Williams is prepared to see farmers - who have seen earnings plummet in recent years - attracting interest.

What people have to remember. he says, is that the Revenue is much more financially-driven than it was when income tax was introduced 200 years ago. Last year, compliance activity by officials may have raised as much as £2bn equivalent to more than 1p on the

The £6million chef

I WORK FOR ...

SARB BASRAN WORKS FOR ROGER ROBAR, NATIONAL LOTTERY WINNER AND RESTAURATEUR

first point of contact with Roger through his food. I was working in the US in marketing and management but whenever I came back to London I would visit my friends in Crouch End, and we would go for a meal at the Boozy Rouge restaurant where Roger was chef. The restaurant was like one of those seedy downtown San Diego bars - plastic tablecloths and rocky chairs, but the cooking was cordon bleu standard and very much cooked with love. And Roger was so hospitable that experiencing a meal here was like finding a lily growing in a dirty pond. One morning I noticed a news-

paper cutting in the window of the restaurant reading "Chef wins six million pounds in the Lottery", and the next thing I knew Roger had cought the place from his boss and turned it into a smart seafood estaurant called Roger's. He re-employed all his old staff at double their original salary and then he approached me. Initially, I thought he would only need me for a few nonths to help with setting up the restaurant, but I ended up staying on as his general PA.

My job is so varied that it includes inything from accompanying Roger o the fish or vegetable market at lawn, doing the accounts, arrangng transport or a visit from the elecragrance that has just arrived in Roger's perfume shop. I also try to ensure that Roger has the chance o get the most out of London, which he loves, so I book him into plays and shows whenever possible.

I work hard from nine until the estaurant closes, Monday through o Saturday, but I am determined hat Roger should have an organised pusiness. Roger is a very hands-on oss and prefers to show you how o do something himself rather than he morning after working a night up a catering college.



rician, to telling people about a new Sarb and Roger in his Crouch End restaurant: 'He wants to give something back to the local community'

shift at the restaurant, which is very demanding, yet he remains on the go seven days a week.

The reason Roger still works so hard has something to do with his personal relationship with Crouch End. At 23, he was the youngest chef to became a master chef and he has cooked all over the world, including for French and American presihim love and appreciation were in give instructions, and I need to be his local community. He wants to n tip-top condition in order to keep give something back to them, which

At times I am protective of him, because people tend to crowd around him believing his luck to be infectious. I also deal with all the letters he receives which ask him for money. Initially he gave a lot of help to those he felt most needed it, including struggling single mothers, but people were ungrateful and just wanted more and more from him. dents, but the people who really gave For someone like Roger to win so much money and to remain in Crouch End takes one hell of a lot millionaire, having seen the amount of strength, because the phenomeip with him. He gets up at four in is one of the reasons he is setting anal jealousy that some friends had a thoroughly enjoyable life: I've

makes him try harder than ever to give something back to the young and the elderly. He always takes the time to carry out the things he says he's going to do - maybe one day he will become an MP.

He still does the Lottery twice a week, using his special system, and I am sure he will win again. He encourages me to join in but I don't think I would want to be a multiof stress it can cause. Besides, I've obviously feel can cause them to be worked in the US in really well-paid

really horrible to him. But it just jobs, travelling in limos, flying around the world, going to openings at clubs and restaurants. But working for Roger is the icing on the cake. I can't believe I am being paid to do a job that I so thoroughly enjoy, working for a spiritual boss who cares about the details of life. Through him I've discovered that the purpose in life is to give back as much as you take, something people often forget. If only people understood that, rather than thinking, "Oh yes, attractive woman works for rich boss".

INTERVIEW BY KATTE SAMPSON

Chatline cheek

"HELLO?" "HELLO?" "Hello?" "Hello," I say. "Who's that?" "Kevin."

"Hi, Kevin. How are you?" "I'm all right. Who's that?"
"I'm Mandy." I say, because tonight I'm Mandy. Tomorrow
I'll be Debbie. Yesterday I was Teresa. I thought I'd already scaled the heights of anonymity, but if you're womaning a chatline, you get a new identity every night. Still, I earn half as

much again in five hours as I was earning in the pub, and I get to hone my acting skills. "Hello, Mandy," says Kevin, and his voice has dropped half an octave. "How are you

tonight?" "I'm very well," I say, swigging on my bottle of water, then giggle. "A bit tipsy." "Oh yeah? Me too. What have

you been up to?" "Ooh, you know. Went out for a couple with the girls from

"That's nice," says Kevin. "What do you do, Mandy?" "I'm a secretary," – well, at least that's not a lie - "in a big advertising firm."

Well, this lot do advertise. Pretty much every day in The Sun and The Sport, alongside the "Naughty Schoolgirls Lose Their Clothes" lines and just below the stairlift ad. My job is to keep the drunken, lonely or underage lads who call up in search of a thrill on the line for as long as possible; if I can spin the call out to longer than 20 minutes I get a 10 per cent bonus.

"Ooh," says Kevin, "a secretary." We're all secretaries, or beauticians, or work in fashion stores here. These are the ideal jobs; not so high-powered we scare them away, classy enough to feed their fantasies. Of course, what they're all hoping to get is a model, but you only get models on the XXX-rated doublepremium lines. And then – if Lauren, who staffs the phonesex booth next to mine, is anything to go by - they weigh 18 stone and haven't washed their hair in three weeks.

"Is that a good job, then?" 'OK." I notice my nails are looking a bit ragged, dig in my bag for a file. "Bit boring. We



THE TEMP

get famous people in sometimes, though. "Famous?" Kevin squeaks a little, then returns to his manly

tenor. "Like who?"

"Ooh," I say. "We had that Linda Robson out of Birds of a Feather in the other day. And Vic Reeves. He's always doing voiceovers." "Vic Reeves?" splutters Kevin. "You know Vic Reeves? What's he like?" "Quite ordinary, really. So, Kevin, what do you do?" "I'm - " a pause while he thinks something up -"a racing driver." "A racing driver? Blimey! What's it like?" "Pure dead brilliant. I did 300

miles an hour yesterday." says Kevin. "It's not all glamour. But it's what I'm good at." "Ooh," I say, "have you ever had a crash?" "Hundreds," says Kev, getting a bit breathy. "I drive experimental cars, you see. I almost died once." "Well, I'm glad you didn't. Wasn't it horribly painful?" Kevin sounds sanguine. "You get used to pain in this game. What do you look like, Mandy?" "Well, I've got long blonde hair and long legs. I'm quite pretty, I suppose. A bit like Denise Van Outen." A long exhalation. "And what are you wearing?" His voice pitch slides upwards again. "I'm wearing a silk blouse," trackies, trainers and a jumper, "though it's come a bit undone while we were in the pub. And a short skirt and stockings." Another pause. "And what colour are your knickers?"

"Kevin," - that's it; fish caught. I'll be getting my bonus tonight - "you're not supposed to ask me questions like that." "Are they red? Have they got lace on?" Suddenly there's a squeak. "Oh no! It's my mum!" and the line goes dead. Damn. I dial back into the switchboard and listen as a host of voices goes "Hello? Hello?" Once line one's been holding for 45 seconds, I pick him up.

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NEW FILMS

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Starring: David Wenham, Toni Collette, Lynette

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest lov" Breti Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Toni Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen.

Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play. The Boys spotlights the flipside of life Down Under, with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown.

Occasionally, the film's theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent. predatory stuff.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) Director: Martin Campbell

Starring: Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins,

The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin "Golden Eye" Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops fullspeed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta-Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.

House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Jolie look on stupefied. 🖢 amden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separatedat-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) Richardson and Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and neat knockabout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.

Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Suriss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.

God nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (cue jets of arterial blood) to a po-faced character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) to surrealistic comedy (an encounter with a bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies include in all manner of insipid gangster chat, but they look like a limp and spindly bunch who would be hard pushed fighting their way out of a paper West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture bag, Duchovny and luminous co-star Angeline

Nathaniel Hulley

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

tollow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheeppig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, animatronic fairvtale.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero

monotonous thriller about a New York vampire killer West End ckling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kens-

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG) Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an evertric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What ves it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the Trocadero, Warner Village West End ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the home coming brother. Kathy Burke. Catherine MY NAME IS JOE (15) McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's THE NEGOTIATOR (15) nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure in this thrilling drama. The script has a predilection regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Dead Man's Curve delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bondit Queen is the story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the oportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road

THE END OF VIOLENCE (15)

Wirn Wenders is back on form with this stylish and intelligent techno-nor about a Nasa plot to "end violence as we know it" through mass surveillance. West End: Ritzy Cinema

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.

West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on the Green. Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Curzon Soho

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and, at the day's end, this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.

West End: Claphom Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin Trocadero, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street. Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, hno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this "Odeon Mezzanine, Rio Cinema, Warner Village

ington. Odeon Marble Arch. Ritzy pro-active heroine who doesn't want to tend to a Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero. man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. Vargin Chelsea, Vargin

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon

Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's Smoking/No Smoking comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potteresque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

RONIN (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (Money Tolks' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate, and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalised physicality. It's a hit-and-

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronei, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Choney and Jennifer Lopez, the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalizarian regime. Allen's best work in a while,

John Frankenheimer's action thriller (right) is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno. Skarseard). Stellan moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a film by Ken Loach - emotional sympathy, indignation and humour all driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic in a bleak vision of Glasgow.

The Fountainhead (PG; Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him,

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Royal Shakespeare Theatre,

Stratford Anthony Ward's splendid sets and Aslan are the stars of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Christmas spectacular (right). To 27 Feb

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

The gifted young Irish director Conall Morrison stages a second reworking of the troubled Boubil/ Schoenberg musical. Will it be third time lucky?

Love Upon the Throne Comedy Theatre

The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent, Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter Cinderella Lyric, Hammersmith

This feast of inspired silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice on a West End stage.

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayekbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

. PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Aubrey Beardsley

Victoria & Albert Museum Displaying the short, glittering life of the aesthete and illustrator, with his sinuous and florid line. Drawings, prints and posters. To 10 Jan

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Goya: The Disparates Maidstone Museum & Art

Gallery Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings (right). Mysterious in intention, it is a void world: life is folly,

men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery.

Manchester

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirts of dots. eyes, Afros and black icons, as well as incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jun

Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham

Museum & Art Gallerv Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) Baker Street Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & wo Smoking Barrels 8 30pm

ABC PANTON STREET ABC PANTON STREET

(0870 9020404)

Piccadilly

Circus The Last Days Of Disco

1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking

Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm,

8.30pm A Perfect Murder

2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The

Wisdom Of Crocodiles 1.10pm,

3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) Θ Piccadilly Orcus Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Victory 1.10pm, 6.10pm ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

3.20pm, 7.05pm, 9pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm. 6.35pm. 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403)
General Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm. 9.10pm The Governess 1.45pm. 4.05pm, 6.25pm 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.55pm Rien Ne Va Pius 4.45pm, 0.05 nm La Vie Revée Des Anges 3.45pm, 6.05pm.

ARC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870 9020414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.25pm, 6.35pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm. 4pm, 6.20pm Elizabeth 3.40pm. 8.55pm My Name Is Joe 1.15pm. 3.55pm. 6.40pm. 9.20pm The Negotiator 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN 6pm, 8,40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) © Sloane Square On Connaît La Chanson 1pm. 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) ← Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm It's A Wonderful Life 1.30pm, 6.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 9.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm. 5.15pm, 9pm Out Of Sight

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) ← Green Park Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm. 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO Court Road The Eel 1.30pm 4.15pm The Fountainhead 4.15pm The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 9.30pm Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm it's A Wonderful Life 12.45pm, 6.30pm The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm,

5pm, 7. i 5pm ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) ← Elephant & Castle Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) & Leicester Square Babe: Pig in The City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm. 8.45pm Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. 9pm Out Of Sight 12.10pm. 2.55pm. 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ⊕ Notting Hill Gate It's A Wonderful Life .40pm; (+ Short: Whoosh) Out Of Sight 4.10pm, 6.40pm. 9.05pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-734 1506) & Piccadilly Circus The Boys 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Buffalo 66 Ipm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

(0171-930 3647) ← Charing Cross Bernie 8.30pm Themroc 6.30pm

(0171-369 1723) ← Hyde Park Corner Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm La Vie Revée Des Anges

(0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Dancing At Lughnasa 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705 050007) © Camden Town Babe: Pig In The City 12.10am, 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.50am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 8.20pm Out Of Sight 12noon, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm. 8.10pm Rush Hour 11.55am. 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705 050007) ₱ Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

(08705 050007) ← High Street Kensington Babe: Pig In The City 12noon. 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm Blade 9.35pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 12noon. 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm. 9.15pm Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705 050007) ← Leicester Square The Mask Of Zorro 11.40pm,

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705 050007) ← Marble Arch Babe: Pig In The City 11.55am. 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.45pm, 2.50pm. 5.55pm, 9pm The Negotiator 8.55 Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705 050007) C Leicester Souare Elizabeth 12.35pm. Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Les Miserables 2.35pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Snake Eyes 2pm. 4.10pm. 6.20pm. 8.35pm There's There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE Antz 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Elizabeth 8.15pm Left Luggage 8.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END (08705 050007) → Leicester Square The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Ronin 12.35pm,

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (494 4153) © Piccadilly Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 11.30am, 1.35pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PHOENIX CINEMA It's A Wonderful Life 4pm Left Luggage 1.45pm 6.45pm, 9pm

8.30pm Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

RENCIR

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square On Connait La Chanson Ipm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.30pm, 2.55m & 2.65m & 2.65m 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm RITZY CINEMA

The Mask Of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm My Name Is Joe 3.45pm, 9.10pm (+ Short: The Man Who held His Breath) Out Of Sight 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm (+ Short: Vacuum) Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) & Angel Elizabeth 3.35pm Love Is The Devil 6.40pm La Vie Revée Des Anges 8.40pm

UCI WHITELEYS

VIRGIN CHELSEA 12.20pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Negotlator 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm Playing God 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Ronin 9.30pm There's ething About Mary 12.50pm. 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET Vegas 12.45pm. 3.20pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO Out Of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show 1pm.

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END 5.40pm, 9.20pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (25th Anniversary Rerelease)
12:30pm. 3:20pm. 6pm, 8:40pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12noon.
2:50pm, 5:40pm, 8:30pm Lock,
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
1:20pm. 3:40pm, 6:20pm,
8:50pm The Negodiator 12:10pm,
3:10pm, 6:10pm, 9:10pm A
Perfect Murder 1:10pm, 3:50pm,
6:30pm, 9pm Playing God
12:10pm, 2:30pm, 4:50pm,
7:10pm, 9:40pm Russh Hour
12:50pm, 1:50pm, 3:20pm,
4:20pm, 5:50pm, 7pm, 8:20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 7pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm.

> CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) © Park Royal Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.05pm, 1.30pm, 2.20pm, 3.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm Blade 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barosk 10.10pm The Mark Of Zore Barrels 10.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm, 6pm, 8.55pm The Negotiator 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm Out Of Sight 6.10pm, 9.05pm The Parent Trap 2.50pm, 5.50pm. 8.40pm Rush Hour 2pm, 2.40pm,

ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet Antz 1.40pm, 3.25pm Baber Pig In The City 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.55pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm The Negotiator 8.10pm Out Of Sight 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 1.45pm. 5.20pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Becken-ham Junction Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm Lock, Stock frwo Smoking Barrels 8.55pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

BR: Bexleyheath Antz 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm, 1.15pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 6pm Blade 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Bar-

BROMLEY ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Antz phone for details Babe: Pig In The City phone for details The Mask Of

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. Babe: Pig in The City 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm The Negotiator 8pm Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,

CROVDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East It's A Won-derful Life 5.30pm, 8.15pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm Blade 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Zorro 12/100n, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Out Of Sight 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) & Dagenham Heathway Antz 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.45pm, 7.40pm, 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.45pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.50pm Blade 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 10.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smok-10.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smok-ing Barrels 9.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.35pm, 4.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.50pm The Negotiator 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Out Of Sight 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 10pm The Parent Trap 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/9 Ealing Broadway Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Out Of Sight 8.15pm Rush Hour

BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) Edgware Antz 2.15pm. 4pm
 Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehadi phone for times Pardeshi Babu phone for times The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Wajood phone for times

Private Ryan 9pm Small Soldiers 2.10pm, 4.40pm There's Something About Mary 6.10pm

FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) ◆ East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Babe: Pig in The City 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm Blade 9.45pm The

Том Ефвоск

Out Of Sight 1.40pm, 4.20pm,

7pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Ronin

1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm Rush Hour

2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm FINCHLEY ROAD

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) P Finchley Road Antz 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas 10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 10.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon. 3pm. 6pm. 9pm The Negotiator 1pm, 3.55pmm, 6.55pm, 9.45pm Out Of Sight 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Ronin 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) + Golders Green Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm The Governess 8.30pm

GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR:

Greenwich Antz 12noon, 5.15pm Elizabeth 7pm The Mask Of Zor-ro 5.50pm, 8.40pm Out Of Sight 9.15pm Rush Hour 5.10pm. 7.20am. 9.30am HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) + Belsize Park Antz 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Lock,

Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm Out Of Sight 2.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) Harrow on the Hill Doll Salake

Rakhna 8.45pm Fire 7pm Kudrat 8.45pm The Soldler (Asian Film) 1.30pm, 5pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow on the Hill Antz Tam, 1pm, 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm Blade 11.05am, 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 9.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.15am, 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.45pm Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 1.05pm, 3.55pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 11am, 11.50am, 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 4.0pm, 4.30pm,

6.30pm, 7.10pm, 9pm, 9.40pm HOLLOWAY **ODEON** (08705 050007) ← Archway Antz 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 6.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pmm, 6.35pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.50pm, 4.55pm, 8.15pm The Negotiator 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out Of Sight 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Thomas 4.00pm Parks Mourt 12.05pm Ronin 8.40pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 1.45pm. 2.20pm. 4pm. 4.35pm. 6.15pm, 6.50pm. 8.30pm. 9.05pm

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) @ Gants Hill Antz 2.35pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Blade 8.25pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn Dancing At Lughnasa 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)

BR: Kingston Babe: Pig In The City

1.10pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm Blade 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.30pm. 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm **MUSWELL HILL** ODEON (08705 050007) ⊕ High-

gate Babe: Pig In The City 1.50pm,

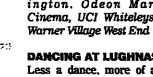
4pm, 6.15pm The Mask Of Zorro

2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out Of

Sight 8.35pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm PECKHAM

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 12noon, 5.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 4.50pm, 6.45pm Blade 6.35pm 9.15pm Elizabeth 7pm The Mask Of Zorro 5.50pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out Of Sight 9.20pm The Parent Trap 6.40pm, 9pm Rush Hour 5 10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm













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IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

THE PARENT TRAP (PG) **Director:** Nancy Meckler

Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising determined to get their parents (Natasha

West End: Odeon Camden Town. Odeon

PLAYING GOD (18)

Director: Andy Wilson Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hutton Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny)

Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, Playing

Krabbe's first stab as a director focuses on the ebbs

dangerous old-school pro.

MULAN (U) This Disney's animated feature has it all: a

See 'The Independent Recommends', above.

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG) Love him or loathe him, Last Year at Marienbad

miss affair.

CURZON MINEMA

NOTTING HILL CORONET

ODEON KENSINGTON

2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) → Piccadilly Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm The Truman Show 6pm,

(0171-733 2229) BR/ \oplus Brixton The Boys 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm The End Of Violence 2pm It's A Wonderful Life 1pm, 6.25pm (+

(0171-935 2772) ← Baker Street Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm. 9pm Out Of Sight 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) ⊕ Belsize Park Dancing At Lughnasa 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm My Name Is Joe

9.40pm Snake Eyes 9.30pm

The Parent Trap 12.30pm. 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.15pm

3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

4.20pm, 5.05pm, 6.50pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 9.55pm RARNET

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)

LOCK, SCOCK & IWO SMOKING Bar-rels 7.15pm. 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12ncon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Out Of Sight 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Ronin 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.65pm, 2.15pm, 9pm, 9.25pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 8pm, 9.35pm, 10pm Titanic 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm

City phone for details The Mask Or Zorro phone for details Mulan phone for details Out Of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details Rush Hour phone

Saving Private Ryan 2pm

2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tortenham Hale Antz 2.40pm, 3.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm Babe: Pig In The City 3pm. 4.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Blade 7.05pm, 10pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 8.15pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 9.05pm The Mask Of Zorro 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm Out Of Sight 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.25pm The Parent Trap 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Ronin 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.15pm, 10.10pm Saving

Negotiator 3pm, 6 20pm, 9.20pm

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PURLEY

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig In The City 5.50pm Blade 8.15pm The Parent Trap 5.05pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 5.35pm.

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond The Mask Of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/Ø Richmond Antz 1pm. 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.40pm. 6pm Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm. 4.30pm. 7pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out Of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm Ronin 8.50pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR; Romford Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm Elizabeth 8.05pm 3.30pm, 3.30pm Eurocus 3.33pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 8.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.10pm. 2.20pm, 4.40pm. 6.50pm, 9pm The Mask Of Zorro 2pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Babe: Pig In The City 5.45pm Elizabeth 5.20pm. 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Blade 3pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm, 6pm. 9pm Out Of Sight 8.45pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Rush Hour 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) Streatham Hill Antz 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.40pm Out Of Sight 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton/Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Blade 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm. 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotrator 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm. 8.40pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/ Stratford East Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5,50pm, 8 35pm Out Of Sight 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Rush 5.55pm. 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.10pm. 3.30pm, 6.45pm,

SURREY QUAYS

Ouays Antz 3.45pm, 6.10pm baue. Pig In The City 3.15pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 7.45pm, 10pm Blade 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out Of Sight 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Ronin 9.15pm Rush Hour 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 7.15pm, 9pm,

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) © Turnpike Lane. Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm,

UXBRIDGE (08705 050007) O Uxbridge Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm. 6pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

WALTHAMSTOW stow Central Babe: Pig tn The City 2.20pm, 5pm The Negotiator 8pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm,

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Babe: Pig In The City 4,25pm. 6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Les Mis-

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Babe: Pig in The City 4pm. 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 5.45pm. 8.20pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/+ Wimbledon/O South Wimbledon Antz 12.25pm, 2.15pm, 4pm Baber Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm Out Of Sight 5.55pm. 8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am. 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm Ronin 8 30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4,10pm, 5,30pm, 8,50pm Small Soldiers

Wood Green NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) ⊕ Tumpike Lane Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 5pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 1.30pm, 8.30pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodford Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm The Negotlator 1,40pm, 5pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

<u>CINEMA</u>

REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE Queensherry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146)

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) The X-Files (15) 2.30pm, 8.45pm Travellers In Time: The White Wilderness (NC) 6.15pm Seven (18) 6.20pm The Silents Spoof Hollywood: Museum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm The ısic Room (Jalsaghar) (18) 8.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) Left Luggage (PG) 1.45pm. 6.45pm. 9pm it's A Wonderful Life

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place

runce CHARLES LEGESTER Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Hana-Bi (18) 1pm The Disappearance Of Finbar (15) 3.30pm The Horse Whisperer (PG) 5.45pm Primary Colors (15) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Kolya (12) 6.45pm + II Postino (15) 8.45pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street (0181-568 1176) Les Mis-erables (12) 4.45pm The Disap-pearance Of Finbar (15) 7pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath (NC)

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503)
Yojimbo (PG) 2pm Dancing At
Lughnasa (PG) 4.15pm, 9pm It's
A Wonderful Life (U) 6.30pm

CUBE (0114-907 4191) Fear And Loathing in Las Vegas (18) 9pm My Name is Joe (15) 7pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)

Henry Fool (18) 5.30pm, 8.15pm La Vie Revée Des Anges (18) 6pm Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 8.25pm CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)

Dancing At Lughnasa (PG) 1pm. 7.15pm Left Luggage (PG) 3pm, 9.15pm The Land Girls (12) 5pm CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Elizabeth (15) 2.30pm.

FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 Funny Games (18) 6pm | Want You (18) 6.15pm | Character (15) Divorcing Jack (15)

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18) 5.45pm The Last Days Of Disco (15) 8.15pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

ABC CINEMA (01225-461730): Babe: Pig in The City (U); Blade

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-466822); Dancing At Lughnasa (PG); The Mask Of Zorro (PG)

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506); Anastasia (U): Antz (PG): Out Of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour ABC EAST STREET (01273-

327010); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The Gty (U); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince Of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15) ODEON (01273-207977); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Blade (18): The Mask Of Zorro (PG); Mulan (U); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince Of Egypt (U); Ronin (15); Rush

VIRGIN (0541-555145); Antz (PG); (18): Dr Dolittle (PG): The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): The Ne-gotiator (15): Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince Of Egypt (U): Ronin (15): Rush

Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG) CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442); 101 Dalmatians (U); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U): Blade (18): Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas (18): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): The Negotiator (15); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince Of Egypt (U): Ronin (15): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG): There's Something About Mary (15)

ething About Mary (15) GLOUCESTER VIRGIN (0541-555174); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U): Blade (18); Dr Dolittle (PG): The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U): Out Of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705050007): 101 Dalmatians (U):
Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in The City
(U): Blade (18): Ever After (PG):
Fear And Loathing In Las
Vegas (18): Home Alone 3 (PG):
The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Roald
Dahl's Matilda (PG): Mulan (U): The Negotiator (15): Out Of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

OXFORD ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-550501); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U); Miracle On 34th Street (1994 Version) (U); Out Of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15)

ABC MAGDALEN STREET (054) 550509): The Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG)

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-554909); Bulworth (NC); Dancing At Lughnasa (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Faster Pussycat, Kill! Kill! (18); Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas (18); Fire (15); It's A Wonderful Life (U); I Want You (18); Kuch Kich Hois Hai (PG); Small Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (PG); Small Soldiers (PG); La VIe Revée Des Anges (18): Will It Snow For Christmas? (12)

SWANSFA TALIESIN ARTS CENTRE (0) 792-296883); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Tintin And The Mystery Of Shark Island (NC)

UCI 10 PARK TAWE (01792-645005); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U): Blade (18); Dr Dolittle (PG): The Exorcist (25th Antheren) SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146)
Ouerelle (18) 7.30pm

ICA CINEMA The Mall SW1 (0171930 3647) Red Beard (Akahige)
(NC) 5pm. 8.30pm Themroc (18)
6.30pm Bernie (NC) 8.30pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square
N1 (0171-684 0201) La Verifica Incerta (NC) 7pm + Short GeigerCounter: The Film Couch (NC) 9pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-

day; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. — Seats at all prices • — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matiness — [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue. [4]: Wed. [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

B22 AND ABOUT THE BOY Three friends and their respective problems are put under the microscope in Ed Hime's new drama. Preceded by a new short, Royal Court Hustaler, the Three courses of the course of the c Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5600) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.15pm, 10p-£10. double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayu's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Glelgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cu SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/& Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7,30pm. [4] 2,30pm. [7] 3pm. £7,50-£30. 180 mins. ANNUE Rags to riches story of the

perpetually optimistic orphan. Vic-toria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm. £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

▶ ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wynd-ham's Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50.

• BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fa tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, booking to 26 June, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

• THE BEST OF TIMES Revuestyle show featuring the songs of Jerry Herman. Vaudeville Strand. WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/+ Char-ing X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

• BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ♦ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32,50, 165 mins.

• BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ← Charring X/Embankment. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150 mins.

 BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent Garden/Charing X.
Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm,
Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm,
£10-£27, half price Friday matinees.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New Lon-don Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) 7:45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. Hour (15): There's Something

D CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical Adelphi Maiden Lane. ²2 (0171-344 0055) ↔ Ch X. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm, £16-£6 (Inc booking fee). 130 mins.

) CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre, Lyrk Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Today 10.30am & 1.30pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50.

● THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊕ Picc Circ, Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £6-£25, Thu mats - all seats £10.

• DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022)

Hammersmith, ue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm,

£10-£32.50. 150 mins. • FAME THE MUSICAL Highoctane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street. W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊕ Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-

Thu 8pm, Fri 5,30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.) FOUR AND DAUGHTERS Richard Wilson directs Christopher Shinn's debut work. Preceded by a smins deput work. Preceded by a short. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Tue-fri 9pm, 10p-£10, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge

Earham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins, AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo

 AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045)
 Picc Grc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, booking to 27 Feb, £8-£29.50. 165 mins.) AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen

Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller: Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins. O INTO THE WOODS Southeim

and Lapine's acclaimed musical which takesa sinister lokk at popular fairytales. Donmar Wareh Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, booking to Feb 13, £15-£27.50.

£10-£32.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE TORE Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket. SWI (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.3 0 pm. [4|[7] 2.3 0 pm.

) JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show, Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) → Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

• KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Ben-nett's comedy about the moribund writer Piccadilly Derman Street, WI (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. Wed-Fri, 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

• LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street. SW1 (0171-369 1731)
Picc Circ/Lelc Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan. £6-£25.

) LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mastransacion in Victor Rugo's inas-terpiece, Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins.

● MISS SAIGON Musical which re-sets the Madom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊕ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35. I THE MOUSETRAP Agatha

Christie's whodunnit. St. Martin's West Street: WC2 (0171-836 1443) → Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mlns. O THE PHANTOM OF THE

OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-market, SW1 (0171-494 5400) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins. PRENT Musical inspired by La heme and set in modern day New York: Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE POYAL NATIONAL INEAURE
DOLVIER: Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, continuing.

• LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's defining work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. in rep. today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, continuing.

O COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep. coday 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Jan. 145 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27.50. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY ITHE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep. tonight 7,15pm, ends 28 Jan. The Pit: £12-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) BR/+ Barbican/Moorgate.

) SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit

1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ◆ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' con-temporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) ← Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12,50-£30, 150 mins. THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-

linda Lang stars in Alan Avekbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 30 Jan, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

) THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

• WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/fott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35. 160 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) ⊕ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

• THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm,
 [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE **BEYOND THE WEST END**

BAC The King And I Steam Industry and BAC join forces for this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 5.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £12, concs £8, under £6. Lavender Hill, 5W11 (0171-223 2223) BR: Clapham Junction.

TRICYCLE THEATRE The Snow Palace Pam Gems'sprovocatve dra-ma looks at the work of Stanislawa Przybszewka, Janet Suzman directs Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4.15pm, ends 19 Dec. £8-£13.50. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000)

TWO-WAY MIRROR THEATRE CLUB AT THE START Much Ado About Nothing Dark cornedy dom-inated by a love-hate relationship. Tue, Thu & Sat 7.45pm. Sun 3.45pm. ends 3 Jan. £6.90, concs £4.90. The Warrant New drama from Pau aghan based on the Lord Nott

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE A Christmas Carol Oddsocks per-forms Charles Dickens' ghostly tale of greed and comcuppance in the dark streets of London. Tonight 7.30pm. £5.95, concs £4.95. Penglais (01970-623232)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call SILVER-HAIRED crooner Tony Bennett (right) had a remarkable career resurrection in the 1980s, gaining popularity with a new young audience. Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra, both named Bennett as the best singer they had ever heard, and since re-signing with Columbia in 1986, he has turned an appearance on MTV Unplugged into a hit album and was an unlikely favourite at last year's Glastonbury festival.

Bridgewater Hall Manchester (0161-950 0000) 27 Apr; Royal Centre, Nottingham (0115-948 2626) 28 Apr. London Royal Albert Hall. (0171-589 8212) 8 May; Birmingham Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333) 11 May, Colston Hall, Bristol (0117-922 3682) 12 May

POLITICALLY CORRECT and totally unique, Stomp can

rightly call themselves performance artists. The ensemble uses everyday objects from dustbin lids to tin cans to create rhythmic sounds. Veterans on TV, they also have an Academy Award for the short film Brooms by Cresswell to their name. Their show has been described as "pure stage magic" and "immensely original." Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (0171-420)

BRIGHTON GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The

Wind in The Willows Kenneth Grahame's enchanting tale of river-life is adapted for the stage. Today 10.30am & 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £6.96-£8.95, concs available. University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save The World New adventure, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999. Today 10am & 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-£10, concs available. Sen-ghenydd Road (01222-230451)

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE Cinderella Easthourne's Christmas treat starring Hinge and Bracket and Wendy Craig. Tonight 7.30pm, mat today 2.30pm. £7-£11, concs available. Compton Street (01323-412000)

GUILDFORD YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Jack And The Beanstalk Rosemarie Ford, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Robert Powell join Trevor Bannister. Tonight 7pm, mat today 2.30pm, ends 3 Jan.

HASTINGS WHITE ROCK THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Jet co-stars with Neighbour Jesse Spencer. Today 1.30pm & 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.50-£8.50, concs available. White Rock (01424-781000)

brook (01483-440000)

HIGH WYCOMBE

WYCOMBE SWAN Jack And The Beanstalk Jean Boht, Michael Elphick, Peter Duncan and Bonnie Langford star. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £8,50-£15.50. St. Mary's Street (01494-512000) WOLSEY THEATRE A Christmas

Carol The Wolsey Theatre offers Dickens' tale of greed in Victorian London as an alternative to pantomime. Today 10am & 2pm. £5-£15, concs available. Clvlc Drive (01473-253725) • STARLIGHT EXPRESS NEWBURY CORN EXCHANGE Puss in Boots Panto about the wily cat whose wheeling and dealing earns his

master a fortune. Today 1.30pm & 7nm, ends 2 Ian -£10, concs £5,50 £8. Market Place (01635-522733) WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard Of Oz Follow Dorothy and her friends down the Yellow Brick Road. Today 10.30am & 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £9.50-£14, concs available.

THEATR HAFREN Beauty And The Beast Puppetry and music in this classic French fairy-tale. Today 10.15am & 1.15pm. £3.50. Llanidkoes Road (01686-625007)

Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORTHAMPTON ROYAL THEATRE The Secret Life Of Humpty Dumpty Panto style adaptation of the famous nursery rhyme. Today 10am. 2.15pm & 7pm. £9.50-£14, concs available. ildhall Road (01604-632 533)

OXFORD
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation for the dream ing spires. Tonight 7pm, mat toda 10am, ends 17 Jan. £6-£16.50 Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

PLYMOUTH
BARBICAN THEATRE Beauty And The Beasties Updated version of the classic tale of love between the ugh and the beautiful, Today 2.30pm. £7.50, concs £4.50. Castle Street (01752-267131)

READING THE HEXAGON The Wizard Of Oz Michaela Strachan goes over the rainbow. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £10.50-£15, concs available. ens Walk (0118-960 6060)

SAI ISRI IRV SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Aladdii Magic carpet ride to Peking and the land of Emperor Foo Wiff Pong. Today 2.15pm. E8-£12.50, concs available. Maithouse Lane (01722-

SOUTHAMPTON NUFFIELD THEATRE Alice In Wonderland Join Alice on a trip to the topsy turry world of Wonderland. Today 10.30am & 1.30pm. £5.95-£12.50, concs available. University Road (01703-671771)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SWAN THEATRE Troilus And Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Tonight 7.30pm, ends Feb 20. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

TEWKESBURY ROSES THEATRE Cinderella The Roses present their traditional family partomime. Today 10.15am & 1.30pm. £7-£10, concs £5-£8. Sun Street (01684-295074)

WINDSON
THEATRE ROYAL Puss in Boots Ge-nial weatherman Jan McCaskill is joined by panto veterans Rod Hull & Emu. Today 2pm & 7.30pm. ends 16 Jan. £6.50-£23, concs available. Thames Street (01753-853888)

WINDSOR

EXHIBITIONS

BEXHILL DE LA WARR PAVILION Picasso: Late Etchings Two series of etchings made in 1968 and 1969. Mon-Sun 10am-5pm. ends 3 Jan. free. (01424-787949)

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition, Mon, Tue. Thursat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, Free. Church Street (01273-290900)

ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians: ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians: Contemporary Art And A Nine-teenth Cenury Vision Artists in-cluding Mat Collishaw and Helen Chadwick respond to the Victorian era. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Nar-row Quay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE PITZWILLIAM MUSEUM The Society Of Three: Whistler, Fantin-Laety or three: whistier, randin-la-tour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints ex-amining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CARDIFF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Kalighat Icons Watercolours chart-ing the last days of the British occu-pation of India. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm. ends 3 Jan. E4.25, concs E2.50, fam-ity £9.75 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-397951)

LONDON COURTAULD GALLERY, COUR-TAULD INSTITUTE Material Evidence: Drawings From The Courtauld Collection Including work by Constable, Rubens and Van Gogh. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Son & Bank Hols 12noon-6pm (last adm, 5.15pm), ends 24 Jan. £4. concs £2. free 10am-2pm Mon (to gallery). Somerset House, Strand, WC2

(0171-873 2526) ← Embankment NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY British Sporting Heroes Tracing sport in British culture from the 18th century to the present. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 24 Jan 64 concs 63, St. Martins Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055)

Charing Cross/Leicester Square. ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS PIcasso: Painter And Sculptor in Clay Ceramic works by the 20th century artist. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm. Fri 10am-8.30pm. ends 16 Dec. £7, OAP/UB40 £6. NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Life? Or Theatre?: The Work Of Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri

10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-8 £2.50, child 8-11 £1 100 Masterpieces Of Imperial Chinese Ceramics From The Au Bak Ling Collection Porcelain from the Sing, Yuan, Ming and Quing dynas-ties. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-6pm, ends 20 Dec. £3, concs £2.50, child (8-18) £1.

BALLROOM, ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Duane Hanson Life-like mod-els of poeple displayed in the public spaces. Mon-Sun 10am-11pm, ends 17 Jan, free. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) & Waterloo.

TATE GALLERY John Singer Sar-gent Comprehensive exhibition de-voted to the paintings of the 19th century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm, ends 17 Jan. £6. concs £4. Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Offic Cultur De Moschour Troits Ofili, Cathy De Monchaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 10 Jan. £1.50. In Celebration: The Art Of The Country House Includes work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm. ends 28 Feb. free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887

8000) & Pimlico. VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 draw-ings and prints. Mon 12 noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 10 Jan. £5, concs £3, under 18/ ES40s/disabled/mems/4.30pm-5,45pm, free (to museum). Grinling Gibbons And The Art Of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th century woodcarver. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 24 Jan. £5, concs £3, under 18/ES40s/disabled/mems/ 4.30pm-5.45pm, free (to museum). Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8441) O South Kensington.

MAIDSTONE
MAIDSTONE MUSEUM AND ART
GALLERY The Disparates: Goya
Late satirical etchings by the Spanish master. Mon-Sat 10am-5.15pm,
Sun 11am-4pm, ends 3 Jan. free. St.
Faith's Street (01622-754497)

ST. IVES TATE GALLERY English ST. IVES TATE GALLERY English Roots: Eric Cameron Layers of paint surrounding organic objects. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St. Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

ST DAVID'S HALL BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Liewellyn An evening of popular classics. Tonight

> QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL Christ-

Trips by Beethoven and Brahms, plus Webern. Tonight 7.45pm. £6-£18. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/@ Waterloo. ROYAL ALBERT HALL Royal Choral Society Christmas Carols The Roy-al Concert Orchestra conducted and

Street Kensington. WIGMORE HALL Melvyn Tan The pianist plays Mendelssohn, Weber and Schubert Tonight 7,30pm, £10-£20. Wigmare Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) © Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

DANCE

CHICHESTER CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Russian National Ballet: Triple Bill Performances of Tchalkovsky's best-loved masterpieces The Nut cracker, Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake. Tonight, Swan Lake 7.30pm,

LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's new staging of favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Tonight 7.30pm (Pavane/De Leeuw/Pavane), £2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632

8300) C Leicester Square. ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight per-formers use anything and every-thing to create an unusual rhythmic bony. Tue-Sat 8om, mats Sai & Sun 4pm, ends 27 Dec. £10-£25. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420

CAMBRIDGE CHARLES MOSELEY AND CLIVE WILMER: CAMBRIDGE OB-SERVED. Talking about their latest collaboration. Waterstone's Bookshop Bridge Street (01223-300123) Tonight 6.30pm, phone for prices.

BOOKBINDING 1998 Entriesfrom the 1998 Bookbinding Competition on display, plus short-listed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Foyer Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) ← Euston/Kings Cross. Mon. Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Tue 9.30am-8pm. Sat

COMEDY

LONDON

JULIAN BARRATT & NOEL FIELD-ING - THE MIGHTY BOOSH AT KOMEDIA The stars of Channel 4's Gas in this Perrier Best Newcomer award winning show jam packed with comic characters and sketches. Tonight 8.30pm, Gardner Street (01273-277772) E7.50, concs E6.

LONDON The glitzly showbiz cron-er incorporates audience interaction and special guests. Tonight 7.30pm. Parker Street. WC2 (0171-405 1516) & Covent Garden. £15. THE COMEDY STORE The Come

LENNY BEIGE AT THE TALK OF

LONDON AIM, ONLY CHILD AND RAE AT THE SOUND REPUBLIC Grand Central showcase featuring DMC fi-nalist Peter Parker, Andy Votel, Rae and Christian and Only Child play

rktil Machine Al Henvely Fresty boys, drag hags and beelcakes on the main floor. Tonight 10.30pm-late, £6. £4 w/fiver, £1 before 11.30pm. Channg Cross Arches, Vil-llers Street, WC2 (0171-930 2020)

6044) & Camden Town

LONDON ART AND ARTISANS: PERSPEC-TIVES ON TUNISIAN CULTURE Exhibition drawing primarily on Tunisia's rich textile traditions. British Museum Great Russell Street WC1 (0171-636 1555) € Russell Square/Tottenham Court

Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 21 Feb, free. CHRISTMAS BRASS RUBBING Create beautiful nativity scenes and make your own Christmas cards. The London Brass Rubbing Centre St Martin in the Fields Church WCZ (0171-9309306) & Trafalgar Square. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 24 Dec, £1.50 (includes all materials)

PLYMOUTH CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Ceramics, pottery scarves and knitwear. Held in the Lower Gallery. Saltram House Plympton (01752-336546) Mon-Thu, Sat, Sun 10am-5pm, ends 12 Dec. 5789 23 Dec. free.

BRIGHTON led by George's soul pop phenome-non, with Sheffield synth pioneers. and Martin Fry's cartoonish slick

BRISTOL MASSIVE ATTACK The revered dub dance team bring their sounds back home. Anson Rooms, Bristol Uni-versity Queens Road (0117-954

MARC ALMOND Short residency for the former Soft Cell singer. Albery Theatre St Martin's Lane WC2 (0171-369 1730) & Leicester Square, Tonight 8pm, £7.50-£27.50,

£4, concs £3. SHANE MACGOWAN AND THE POPES Storming punk-folk from the debauched former Pogue, and his

8pm, £12.50, ster his unique iconoclastic vision

Triumvirate play This is My Truth, Tell Me Yours. Wembley Arena Empire Way. Wembley (0181-902 0902) & Wembley Park. Tonight 7pm, £17.50.

strumental veterans. Woughton Centre Chaffron Way (01908-660392) Tonight 8pm. £8. READING UB40 Midiands reggae-popsiers tour the new album of Jamaican clas-

sics, Labour of Love III. Rivermead

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BRISTOL SHOW OF HANDS West Country acoustic folk duo. Albert Inn West Street (0117-966 1968) Tonight 8pm, £9, ticket only event.

JIMMY BOSCH AND THE NUYORICAN ALL-STARS Contemporary NY salsa man of the moment.
Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916
6060)

GEORGE MELLY AND JOHN
CHILTON'S FEETWARMERS Veteran vocalist and showman in louche
Christmas panto. Ronnle Scott's
Frith Street WI (0171-439 0747) O Leicest . Equar Tonight 9.30pm. phone for details.

ST. ALBANS

حكذا من الاحل



EVENTS Road/Holborn, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm,

CLASSICAL

7.30pm, £5. The Hayes (01222-878444) LONDON

lan Zacharias/Frank Peter Zim-merman/Heinrich Schiff Piano

introduced by Richard Cooke. Tonight 7.30pm, £7.50-£23.50, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) + High

phone for prices. Oaklands Park (01243-781312) LONDON

LITERATURE

LONDON

9.30am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, free.

BRIGHTON

dy Store Players with Richard Vranch Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson, Jim Sweeney, Steve Frost, Andy Smart Tonight 8pm, Oxendon 5treet. SWI (01426-914433) ⊕ Piccadilly Circus, £11. NUS £7.

<u>CLUBS</u>

beats from beneath. Tonight 10pm-late. £7.50. Wardour Street. WI (0171-413 1423) & Picadilly Circus. FRUIT MACHINE AT HEAVEN FI-

BR/O Charing Cross. THE LOFT AT HOS Paul Trouble Anderson drops house sounds alongside guest wocalists and D.Is. Tonight 9.30pm-2am. £5. concs £4. West Yard, NW1 (0171-485 **MUSIC**

CULTURE CLUB, HUMAN LEAGUE, ABC An all star line-up goes retro. popsters bringing up the rear. Brighton Centre Kings Road (0870-900 9100) Tonight 7pm, £22.50.

5800) Tonight 8pm, £16.

JAMES HUNTER BAND Leading Brit bluesman. Backstage Bar, Spice of Life Moor Street W1 (0171-739 3025) O Tottenham Court Road/Leicester Square. Tonight 8pm,

inspired backing troupe. The Forum Highgate Road NW5 (0171-344 0044) BR/ Kentish Town, Tonight THE FALL King Grump Mark E Smith back with a new line-up to bol-

LA2 Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) & Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm. £8-MANIC STREET PREACHERS, CATATONIA The passionate Welsh

MILTON KEYNES OZRIC TENTACLES Space-rock in-

Leisure Centre Richfield Avenue (0118-901 5000) Tonight 8pm. £17-£19.50.

SCOTT HAMILTON QUARTET Straightahead tenor sax smoothie. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street WI (0171-439 8722) & Tottenham Court Road, Mon-T ends 23 Dec. £12.50. Fri/Sat £15.

MILTON KEYNES
JOHN AND CLEO'S CHRISTMAS
SHOW Leading lights of 1960s UK jazz
and guests. The Stables Stockwell
Lane. Wavendon (01908-583928)
Tonight 8.15pm, £11.50-£28.50.

ST. ALBANS
ROY HARPER, CHERYL BEER Cult
English songwriter who boasts over
an albums. Horn Reborn Victoria
Street (01727-853143) Tonight

केक्स संग्रहेत स्थापनी तिकासन्दर्भागः स F.M. :-A State of the second

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9.00 Park MARIE NO. SE except: Secretary Reserved 12-20

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (976-998MHz FM)

A THE VENT

6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo's Office Party. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Raddiffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.40 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 Soul Show. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited. 10.30 Richard Alinson. 11.45 Following My Star. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

РЕМЕРЬ (902-924MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 10.30 Artist of the Week. **11.00** Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach.

1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras 4.00 Choral Evensono. 5.00 in Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Chris Wines introduces a concert from St George's, Brandon Hall, Bristol, given

by its resident orchestra. Elizabeth Wallfisch and Catherine Mackintosh (violins), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Christophe Coin (cello). Scarlatti: Concerto No 3 in F in Seven Parts. Pergolesi: Violin Concerto in B flat. Vivaldi: Cello Concerto in B

8.15 Book of the Month. An extended review of one of the month's most interesting new publications. 8.35 Concert, part 2. Leonardo Leo: Cello Concerto in F minor. Vivaldi: Concerto in D minor for two violins and cello, Op 3 No 11. Durante: Concerto No 8 in A (La pazzia). 9.35 Postscript. Kevin Jackson unravels the stories behind classic works of European literature. 3: 'The Poems of Friedrich Holderlin'. In September 1806, Friedrich Holderlin was forcibly removed to a clinic for the inne. Discharged after eight months, he was given only three years to live, though he survived a further 36 liv-

SKY PREMIER

SKY MOVIEMAX

SKY CRIEMA

6.00 Forbidden Territory: Stanley's

Search for Livingstone (1997) (95871).

8.00 Lies He Told (1996) (25239). 10.00 Phoenix and the Magic Carpet (1994)

(94784). 12.00 Forbidden Territory: Stan-

ley's Search for Livingstone (1997) (17390).

Movie (1996) (33697). 4.00 Lies He Told (1996) (2968). 6.00 Phoenix and the Mag-

ic Carpet (1994) (98790). 7.30 Barry Nor-

(1995) (21806), 10.00 A Murder of Crows

11.50 Dead Silence (1996) (380158). 1.30 Surviving Picasso (1996) (93228340). 3.35

- 6.00 Dukes of Hazzard Reunion (1997)

640 Malaika (1997) (89174887). 7.50 All

Part II (1991) (14177). 3.00 Malaika (1997)

(34784). 5.00 All the Winters That Have

(1996) (56697). 9.00 Mars Attacksi (1996)

(42245). 12.30 Butter (1997) (290123). 2.10 Freshman Fall (1996) (256901). 3.45

- 6.00 Mighty Quinn (1989) (89832340).

4.00 The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)

(7676719). 6.00 Monsieur Verdoux (1947)

(9914326). **10.00** Black Sunday (1977)

(43027993). 12.25 The Boston Strangler (1968) (5025123). 2.20 Hollywood Hall of

Fame (37103302). 2.50 Hotel Reserve (1944) (68879949). 4.20 Back to Bataan

6.00 Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders

from Mars (1973) (2135622). 8.00 The

Madness of King George (1994) (2041239). **10.00** Nikita (1990) (8184500).

12.00 The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994) (7703524). 1.45 Bad

King of New York (1990) (44174843). 5.30

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World (8948142).

Connections 2 by James Burke (2477535).

5.30 Jurassica (8031806). 6.00 Animal

Doctor (8038719), 6.30 Wildest Antarctics

(2581332). 7.30 Beyond 2000 (8945055).

4.30 Walker's World (8944326). 5.00

Lieutenant (1992) (8337814). 3.20 The

(9902581), 8.00 Heartburn (1987)

(80146104). 5.50 Close. FILMFOUR

6.00 Gunbuster (3455098).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Been (1997) (45974). 7.00 Spy Hard

(22535). 11.00 Below Utopia (1997)

man's Film Night (5559). 8.00 Hackers

(1998) (695822). See Pick of the Day.

PICK OF THE DAY

ONE OF the more entertaining spectacles at this year's party conferences was Edward Heath (right) and Margaret Thatcher nestling awkwardly in Ikea armchairs on the platform at Bournemouth, refusing to look at one another. In fact, as Selling Ted (11am R4) reveals. they did speak back stage - their first conversation in 22 years was about the revolting arm-

chairs. Max Cotton follows Sir Edward on the promotional tour for his memoirs. The Course of My Life.

That's followed by The Bona History of Julian and Sandy (11.30am R4): Maureen Lipman digs out some old recordings of Round the Horne, its camp followers and wonders at the sexual politics of it all. ROBERT HANKS



ing in a tower being cared for by a 9.00 NEWS: Midweek carpenter. Before his mental break-9.45 Serial: Dear Bill. down, he had written a series of elegies and hymns that make him one of the finest poets of the romantic age. Kevin Jackson explores this highly distinctive vision and the way this iconic figure inspired samizdat writers in East Germany. 1.00 The World at One. 10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore intro-1.30 Wildbrain

duces a recital by the Fibonacci Sequence, including characteristic works by three French composers. Françaix: L'heure du berger, Roussel: Trio for flute, viola and cello, Op 40. Poulenc: Sextet for piano and wind instruments.

10.45 Night Waves. Modern society, it is regularly claimed, is largely ignorant of history. But from family photo albums to days out at historic sites. people connect with the past in a multitude of ways beyond formal education. In 'The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life', historians Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelan have explored this personal history-making. Laura Cumming discusses their work and its insight into our relationship with the past. And in a series of end-of-year letters from around the world, writers reflect on another turbulent 12 months in the history of Jerusalem. 11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Effott Carter. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS; Selling Ted. See Pick

11.30 The Bona History of Julian and Sandy. See Pick of the Day. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

215 Clive. 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question 3.30 Stafford on Humour. 3.45 With Great Pleasure.

4.00 NEWS; Case Notes. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Booked.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7:15 Front Row, Francine Stock with the arts programme, featuring an investigation into the phenomenon of the Christmas annual. 7.45 Under One Roof. With Jenni Murray and guests. Drama: 'Under

One Roof by Jenny Landreth, based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. As Christmas approaches, shopping, cooking and clubbing reach frantic proportions for Gillian, her daughter Chioe and her mother Bernice. Nativity is in the air even for Molly the dog. With Janet Maw and Edna Dore. Director Marilyn Imne.

8.00 NEWS; Education 2000. A forum which tests plans to improve the country's education system by the early years of the next century. Edward Stourton invites panel and

guests to discuss the proposition: Education should be valued for its own sake, not because it supplies the workforce of the future'. 8.45 Keyword, Matt Frei highlights a word from a foreign language which captures the essence of that country

and its culture. 1: 'The Spaghetti In-

9.00 NEWS; Costing the Earth. Malaria continues to be a global menace. Three million people die from it every year and it is mainly a disease of the developing world. Yet lobbyists are succeeding in enforcing a worldwide ban on a pesticide that is the most effective weapon against it - namely DDT. This programme investigates the dilemma and the power of the environmental

9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation. 10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb. By Penelope Lively, read by Stephanie Cole (8/10). 11.00 Children's Hour. with Armstrong and Miller. Another half-hour with Craig Children and Martin Bain-Jones's optimistic attempt at cultural review. Ben Miller and Alexander Armstrong star as the pompous critics in Britain's first 'critcom'.

11.30 4 at the Store. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book; Aphrodite. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00

12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Parliament RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Featuring coverage of all the night's action, including Manchester United v Chelsea in the FA Carling Premier-ship. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone in with Richard Littlejohn: 0500 909693 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight

1.00 Up A**i**l Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Classics at Seven. 9.00 Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kiHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Bobby Hain / FM only Harriet Scott from 6.45. 7.30 Harriet Scott. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Britain. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8,00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 lan Colfins.

(4971806). **8.30** The Bill (8114326). **9.00**

The Bill (8201806), **9.30** Middlemarch (9296500), **10.30** Angels (8290790), **11.00** Dallas (3531500), **11.55** Neigh-

bours (32053351). **12.25** EastEnders (2314500). **1.00** Middlemarch (7487055).

2.00 Dallas (6651239), 2.55 The Bill (2179790), 3.25 The Bill (6386790), 3.55

EastEnders (6263846). 4.30 Angels (8946784). 5.00 All Creatures Great and

(7570719). 7.00 The Cornedy Alternative:

Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum.

(6042221). 8.20 The Cornedy Alternative:

Dad's Army (7467974). 9.00 One Foot In

(3719513). 11.35 The Bill (4594055). 12.05

the Grave (5167158), 9.40 Silent Witness

The Bit (4909369). 12.35 Spender

(2600340), 1.30 Big Break (3950663),

2.10 Only when I Laugh (44395982).

2.40 - 7.00 Shopping (42811524).

LIVING

May to December (2974719). 7.40 The

Small (2385500), 6.00 Due South

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

FRENETIC ACTIVITY over the weekend enabled two of the three Onyx Grand Prix leaders to increase their scores but without affecting their actual placings.

As I've said several times recently, the leaders now all require perfect scores to improve. The reason lies in the complex system which depends, roughly speaking, on adding up a limited number of best scores throughout the year. As an increasing number of excellent results are accrued, so it becomes harder and harder to produce results so good that they can beneficially replace ones already included in the total.

On Friday evening the leading scorers were Hebden (190.6), Arkell (190.2) and Plaskett (188.3). Playing in the Golders Green Rapidplay on Saturday, Plaskett started with 4/4 but then drew with Paul Georgiou. A further draw left him the clear winner on 5/6, ahead of Jonathan Parker on 4 and a group including Georgiou. who plays for Barnet Chess Club, on 3.5.

Meanwhile Keith Arkell had snuck off to the North London Open, in Barnet itself, where tover Saturday and Sunday) he scored a perfect 5/5 to improve his score to 191.2. Enough to take the lead, you would have thought. But that is without reckoning with Mark Hebden. In the Nuneaton Rapidplay, on Sunday, Hebden scored a superb 6/6 against a powerful field, with victories against the joint secondplaced Chris Baker and Andrew Webster, who both scored 5, and Plaskett himself, who had sped on from Golders Green but crashed out on just 4/6.

With just the Islington Open left, Hebden leads on 192.4, ahead of Arkell (191.2) and Plaskett (still 188.3). A perfect 5/5 at Islington next 21.Be3 Rxc1+

weekend would enable either Arkell or Plaskett to overhaul Hebden in the race to the £3,000 first prize - but otherwise it is Hebden's.

In this very unusual opening. popularised almost single-handedly by Hebden. White develops his knight in front of the c pawn but still has various motifs for pressurising the centre.

Baker seemed to get a good game and, indeed, for much of it he had arguably the better pawn structure with a slightly weak a pawn but pressure against d4. However, his Achilles heel was the misplaced bishop on e6, which prevented easy coordination; so perhaps he should have played 25...Bd7 26.Nc5 Be8 or even 26...e6. 28...f5 was very weakening. At the end Black was getting mated; eg if 39...Bxe3 40.Be6+ Kh8 41.Qf8+ Kh7 42.Qg8 mate.

> White: Mark Hebden Black: Chris Baker Nuneaton Rapidplay, 1998 "Barry Attack"

22.Qxc1 Qb4 23.Qc8+ Nf8 3.Nc3 d5 24.Qc3 Qa3 4.Bf4 Bg7 25.Qc2 h5 26.Kg2 hxg4 27.hxg4 Nd7 7.Ne5 Nc6 28.£3 £5 8.0-0 cxd4 29.g5 Kf7 9.exd4 Bf5 30.Qd2 Nb8 10.g4 Be6 31.Nc5 Nc6 11_Nxc6 bxc6 32.Nxe6 Kxe6 12.Na4 Nd7 33.Qc3 Nb4 13.Re1 Oc8 34.Qc8+ Kf7 35.Bb5 Qb2+ 15.h3 Qc6 36.Kh3 Bxd4 16.b3 Rac8 37.Qe8+ Kg7 38.Qxe7+ Kg8 17.Rc1 Qb7 18.Qd2 cxd4 39.Bd7 Bg7 19.cxd4 Rxc1 40.Be6+ Kh7 20.Rxc1 Rc8 41.Of7

Black resigns

BRIDGE

1.d4 Nf6

5.e3 0-0

14.c3 c5

THIS WAS a deal of swinging fortunes - it looked easy but became difficult. South made an excellent try to land his contract, but the defenders had the last word.

South opened One Spade, and North, after contenting himself with a 1NT response, raised South's heart rebid to game. West led ◇Q against Four Hearts and declarer's start seemed straightforward. He won in dummy and led . Q. reasoning that, if the spade finesse was right, he would lose only two trumps and a diamond; if the spade finesse lost, he might well lose only a spade and two trumps.

The finesse duly lost, and West continued with O J to the king. Two top spades followed, and West accurately trumped the jack with ♠2 (a ruff with ♡K would see dummy's losing diamond go away). Dummy over-ruffed, and declarer, after coming to hand with A, ruffed a spade.

After returning with a club ruff, the losing diamond went away on the established fifth spade. Yes, East could, of course, ruff, but then had TA to come.

No.3795 Wednesday 16 December

Game all; dealer South North **•**03 7Q 10864 **♣**J72 East **◆**K7 410852 ~K2 ♥A 5 ♦QJ103 0964 South **◆**AJ964 ♥J973 ♦K82 ♣A

 ∇A and ∇K would fall together. This all looked very neat, but West found an accurate counter when, on the fourth and fifth spades, he discarded his two remaining diamonds. East duly ruffed the last spade with \$\infty\$ 5, but now he was able to lead a diamond for West to ruff with his ♥K, and the defenders still

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DESPITE ONE of the most else's book under his own name. memorable (read, excruciating) (right) is still a fine performer. Sky Premier), he plays a defence lawyer who is disbarred for inappropriate behaviour. He becomes a fishing teacher, before landing up in trouble again for publishing someone

Manchester United vs Oscar-winning speeches in living Chelsea (7pm Sky Sports 1) is memory when he won the Best a fixture that traditionally Supporting Actor gong for Jerry provides excitement. In this Maguire, Cuba Gooding Jr Premiership clash, which may may well have a bearing on In A Murder of Crows (10pm the destination of the title, Manchester United will be hoping that their prolific strike force continue their rich vein of form against Gianluca Vialli's cosmopolitan outfit.

JAMES RAMPTON



(36827239) 9.30 Spy Hard (1995) (36827239) 1.100 Trail of Tears (1995) (303a) 1.00 Where the Red Fern Grows 8.00 How Did They Build That? (2473719), 8.30 Animal X (2389326), 9.00 The Unexplained (5731974). 10.00 Super Structures (573406f), #L00 America Exposed (3526968). 11.30 America Exposed (1884054). **12.00** Empire of the East (1329475). **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (9851765). **1.30** Ancient Warriors (9107659). **2.00** Close.

SKY ONE 7.00 The Simpsons (47993), 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (57142), 8.30 Critis Evans breaktast Show (5/142), 8.34 Hollywood Squares (52697), 9.00 Guilty! (7871), 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (59784), 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (12448), 12.00 Jenny Jones (8631697). 12.55 The Special K Collection (53818332). **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9885806). **1.55** The Special K Collection (77137719). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6531413). **2.55** The Special K Collection (2547968), 3.00 Jenny Jones (7571790), 3.55 The Special K Collection (8141516). 4.00 Guilty! (82429), 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5622), 6.00 Married with Children (4055). **6.30** Friends (1535). **7.00** The Simpsons (6351). **7.30** Real TV (7719). **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (21852). **9.00** The X Files (14516). **10.00** Millennium (17603), **11.00** Friends (83158), **11.30** Star Trak (30968), **12.30** Renegade (25291).

1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (4675727). SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8387535). 7.15 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (620061). 8.15 Sky Sports Centre

(8465326), **8.30** Racing News (93622). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (84974). 9.30 The Footballers' Football Show (56332). 10.30 Inside Scottish Football (37719). 11.30 Fastrax (36210). 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (91210). 12.30 FA Cup Special (29500) 2.00 Sports Unlimited (69697) 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (47326). 4.00 The Footballers' Football Show (22061). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun Challenge (6326). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (4887). 6.30 Unbelievable Sports (2239). 7.00 Ford Football Special Manchester United vs Chelsea (12257974). See Pick of the Day. 10.15 Sky Sports Centre (567326). 10.30 Pool (92351). 11,30 Unbelievable Sports (57852). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (3313104).

United vs Chelsea (287456). 1.45 Ring-side (275611). 3.15 Sky Sports Centre (48148765), 3.30 Close. **SKY SPORTS 2** 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3469142), 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (5851332), 7.45 Recing News (8005790), 8.15 Fastrax (6223245). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (6546622). **9.00** Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (2333968). **9.30** Fish TV Fishing Tales (3498500). **10.00** Showjumping - Spruce Meadows Horse Diarles (3540061). **11.00** Sports Unlimited (3484697). **12.00** Table Tennis (3584351). 1.00 Showjumping - Spruce Meadows Horse Diarles (3497871). 2.00 Moto-plus

12.15 Ford Football Special Manchester

Golf Extra (9037158), 5.00 Pool (8307072), **6.00** Watersports World (3580535), **7.00** Termis (3552806), **9.00** Golf Extra (6903158). 11.00 Figure Skating (9036429). 1.00 Tennis (8518814). Sky Sports Centre (66711320), 3.15 Close. SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot

7.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (67806887). 7.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (93841784). **8.00** Ringside (26999055). 9.30 Unbellevable Sports (48173264). 10.00 Olympics: Golden Moments (74329158), 10.30-11.30 Sports Classics -Gold Cricket - Brian Lara (14085413). EUROSPORT

7.00 Crossroads (1066185). 7.30 Neigh-

bours (4564429). 7.55 EastEnders

Gun (48172535). 1.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (9427/968). **1.30** Fish TV Fishing Tales (4808/871). **2.00** Superbouts All v Norton (85660603). **3.00** Olympic Series Olympic Destinies (67814806). 3.30 V-Max (93938264). 4.00 Sports Unlimited (47526264). 5.00 Figure Skating (74332622).

7.30 Football (82852). 9.00 Biathfon (32037326). 10.45 Skiing (2604626). 12.00 Biathlon (66500). 2.00 Equestrianism (50993). 3.00 Blathlon (54516). 5.00 Speedworld (98887). 6.30 Football European Championship Legends (57210). 7.30 Football (708351). 10.00 Boxing (79413). 11.00-12.30 Speedworld (71582). UK GOLD

6.00 Tmy Living (9696719). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (4499245). 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5234448). 10.40 Michael Cole (3445806). 11.30 Brookside (1372158). 12.00 Living Issues (3360239). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1833500). 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1714603). 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (7771142). 2.05 Rolonda (4141210). 2.55 Living It Upl (4952622). 3.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9920177). 4.45 Tempestt (7954603). 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (8178142). 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show

(6805239). **7.00** Rescue 911 (7582326). **7.30** Beyond Belleft: Fact or Fiction (1151142). **8.00** Ally McBeel (9901852). **9.00** Halifax FP (9911239). **11.00** The Spicy Sex Files (1626852). 12.00 Close. 9.00 Ryan's Daughter (1970) (93929413). 12.15 Two Loves (1961) (25028307). 2.00 The Alphabet Murders (1965) (34684982). 3.30 Ambush (1950) (50792814). 5.00

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (5697). 7.30 Desmond's (5993), 8.00 Roseanne (7245), 8.30 Just Shoot Me (3852), 9.00 Cybil (26887), 9.30 Seinfeld (18429). 10.00 Frasier (90581). 10.30 Cheers (89429). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (21332), **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show (51622), **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman (69098). 1.00 Taxi (12765). 1.30 The Critic (34475). **2.00** Dr Katz (80727). **2.30** Soap (92562). **3.00** Hooperman (92901). **3.30-4.00** Nightstand (83814).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

(1557595). 2.30 Fastrax (9303177). 3.00

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsine 6.30 (887).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: 12.25 Sam Smalaich (9446177), 12.45 Orain agus Rannan (73909210). 6.00 News (535). 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weat (887), 7.00 As BBC1 (8451). 9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Scottish Labour Party (233697). 9.35 War and Pists (315245). 10.05 Ex-S (120784).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: As BBC1 LONDON & SE CALERIA B.30 Wales Today (887). 10.05 The Challenge (120784). 10.35 War and Piste (220210). 11.05 Best of British (676326). 11.50 Film: Breach of Conduct (978448). 1.20 Joins BBC News 24 (97676678).

ANGLIA As Cariton except: 12.20 Angla News and Weather (8901603). 1.00 Di-nosaurs (8803361). 1.35 Horne and Away (97301719). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Co.22ry (581142) 3.20 Anglia News and W.; \$62 (8944719) 5.10 Shortland Street (6812806) 6.00 Home and Away (525790) 6.25 Anglia News (222871) 10.05 News; Weather (115852) 10.35 Anglia News and Weather (466806). **11.15**Film: The Comedy of Terrors (743413). **2.35** The Hopeful Traveller (5670562). **3.05** Trisha (9979727). **3.55** Cybernet (58006017), 4-20 Box Office America (18706678), 4-50 Nightscreen (68733348).

CENTRAL As Carlton except: 12.20 Central As Cartton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (590)603, 12.30 ITN News; Weather (36790), 1.00 Echo Point (11500), 3.20 Central News (8944719), 5.40 Shortland Street (8812806), 6.00 Home and Away (526790), 6.25 Central News and Weather (22871), 10.35 Central News; Weather (466806), 11.15 Tales from the Crypt (100142), 4.30 Jobfinder (2309659), 5.20 Asian Eye (2180611).

AS Cariton except: 10.15 This Morning (99:516). 12.15 HTV Naws (3539:239). 1.00 Shortland Street (1500). 1.30 Shortland Street (5095)790, 1.35 Home and Away (9730)719). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (5181142). 3.20 HTV News (894479). 5.10 Princtine Dlary (5509)854.6 06 Home and Away (6812806), 6.90 Home and Away (525790), 6.25 Wales Toright (222871), 10.35 HTV News (466806), 11.25 HTV News 98 (986036), 12.15 Tales from the

Darkside (5021017). 2.35 The Hopeful Traveler (5670562). 3.05 Trisha (9979727). 3.55 Cybernet (58006017). 4.20 Box Office America (18706678). 4.50 TTV Nightscreen (687333348). 5.00 Coronation Street (44938).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 5.10 Wildife Rescue (6812806). 6.25 HTV West Westher (151055). 6.30 The West Tonight and Weather (555). 11.15 The Secret KGB UFO Files (743413).

As Carlton except: 10.15 This Mom-ing (991516), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3539239), 1.00 Shortland Street Weather (3539239). 1.00 Shortland Street (860335f). 1.35 Home and Away (97301719). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (5181142). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (8944719). 5.10 Home and Away (6812806). 5.37 Three Minutes - Freescreen (266806). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (603). 6.30 Holiday Park (555). 10.35 Meridian News and Weather (466806). 11.15 Meridian Business Awards (88606). 12.15 Tanard IIIo (5021072). 2.24 (86806), 12.15 Taped Up (5021017), 2.35 The Hopetul Traveller (5670562), 3.05 Tr-isha (9979727), 3.55 Cybernet (58006017), 4.20 Box Office America (18705678), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen

(68733348). 5.00 Freescreen (44938).

WESTCOUNTRY As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (991516), 12.15 Westcountry News (3539239), 12.27 Christmas Stories (353233), 12.27 Christmas Stones (6919622), 1.00 Emmerdale (11500), 3.20 Westcountry News (3944715), 6.00 West-country Live (4581), 10.35 Westcountry News (466806), 11.15 The Secret KGB UFO Files (743413), 2.35 The Hopeful Traveller (5670562), 3.05 Trisha (9979727), 3.55 Cybernet (58006077), 4.20 Roy Office America (18706678) 4.20 Box Office America (18706678) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (68733348). 5.00 Coronation Street (44938).

YORKSHIRE As Cartton except: 10.15 This Morning (9915)6), 12.15 Calendar News and Weather (3539239), 1.00 Home and Away (58136993), 1.25 Christmas Home in the Country (5832429). 230 Emmerdale (5478622). 2.45 Dales Supermarket Sweep (7977606). 3.10 Dales Supermarket Sweep (7977606). Sweep (7977608). 3.10 Dale's Supermar-ket Sweep (8948535). 3.20 Calendar News Headines (894479). 5.40 News; Weather (977852). 5.55 Calendar (784516). 6.30 Toright (555). 10.35 Cal-endar News and Weather (466806). 11.15 The Secret KGB JFK Assassination Files (100142). 11.45 Anatomy of Disaster (595622). 4.25 Jobfinder (3790543). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshive except: 12.15 North East News and Weather (361987). 12.25 Joblink (6919622). 3.20 North East News Headlines (6944719). 5.55 North East Weather (173142). 6.00 North East Tonight and Weather (48581). 10.35 North East News and Weather (466806). As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Judge

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Judge Joe Brown (46510448). 12.30 Sesame Street (74652165). 1.00 Planed Plant - Rala Rwdins a Lisabeth (46227974). 1.30 The Fly (83508871). 1.35 Film: Big Deal at Dodge Citly (45597142). 3.50 The Filtern-to-One Grand Final (84792516). 4.30 Ricki Lake (11470790). 5.00 Planed Plant 18908065. (16903326). **5.30** Countdown (11398142). **6.00** Newyddion (19062806). **6.10** Heno (80792061). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (33456535). **7.25** Fiermio (30426577). 8345633). 7.25 Piermo (30426377). 8.00 Talwin y Belricd (16992210). 8.30 Newyddion (16084245). 10.00 Brookside (95759500). 10.35 Storm Force (34241061). 11.35 Frasier (75993239). 12.05 Under the Moon (5185123), 4.00 High 5 (90235369), 4.30 Close.

ACROSS

Pelted with small missiles (8) Overacts clumsily (4) 9 Perch (5) 10 Dish of pate etc (7)

11 Elate (10) 14 Award for valour (8.5) 16 1890's style (3.7) 20 OT book (7)

21 Dried coconut kernel (5) 22 Paradise (4) 23 Alienate (8)

DOWN

23

CONCISE CROSSWORD

10

Sense (8) Foretelling the future (8) Praise (5) Racketeers (13)

21

Corrosive chemical (4) Appear (4) Reviewer (6)

12 Plain and unsophisticated (8) 13 Kiss (8) 15 Headlong charge (6)

17 Open sore (5) 18 Leer at (4) 19 Formerly (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Posse, 4 Don (Poscidon), 7 Ceil, 8 Sea-lions, 9 Intelligence, 10 Editor, 13 Extent, 15 Cabin-cruiser, 19 Engaging, 20 Earn, 21 Yak, 22 Today, DOWN: 1 Paean, 2 Salient, 3 Easel, 4 Deign, 5 Nankeen, 6 Bangle, 11 Decency, 12 Rancid, 14 Tail-end, 16 Black, 17

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW &

MATTHEW SWEET TELEVISION REVIEW

Throughout her career, writes
Thomson, Andrews "vallantly
resisted being interesting".
In David Horn's documentary,
she continued to fight the good
fight. She smiled that tight
smile against a variety of
featureless hotel-suite
backgrounds. She appeared in
a range of different shades of
lip-gloss. The veins in her neck
stood out as she emphasised
some uncontentious point. Any
note of tragedy was efficiently
suppressed. Any whilf of
controversy was dispersed
with a blast of the Alpine-fresh
alr of good PR.

Andrews was a child star
heafters are and her hist broad-

Andrews was a child star before she got her big break to a stint on Broadway in The Boy Friend), and the most revealing part of Horn's film focused on these early days which she spent touring the country in her parents' variety act. Barbara Andrews played the piano, Julie's stepfather, Ted, belted out warbly tenor material of the Hey-Ho-Cometo-the-Fair sort, and Julie provided twittery renditions of operatic arias. She appeared on variety bills with Fred Emney, Jon Pertwee and Wally Boag (balloon sculptor extraordinaire, in case you don't remember him) and took London by storm when she played "the Egg" in a production of Humpty Dumpty. (This I found rather baffing—surely Humpty himself is the Egg in Humpty himself is the began to get billed over that of her parents.

Here, somewhere behind he saccharine grins and cosy anecdotes, was a story worth leiling. Andrews' first husband, the stage designer Thuy Walton -who, true to type, still counts fulle as one of his favourite things - suggested that Ted was mightly resentful of his step-daughter's success. Walton implied that he felt numiliated when she became he breadwhner in the family, and that he took to drink as a consequence. Julle, for her part, nearly declined her first tole on Broadway in order to that her family.

JOHNNY MEETS MADONNA (9pm C4) O;; rather, Johnny summons up the courage to maintain eye contact with Madonna (right). Johnny Vaughan follows up his interview with the cast of Friends by bagging the first British TV interview in years with the re-invented former material girl. Even within the cagey confines of the modern superstar interview this is weak stuff. Vaughan does some obvious fishing about her love life and then settles for generalities and platitudes about the price of fame and the difficulties of bringing up haby. La Ciccone looks perfectly relaxed, as well she night in the circumstances. Where's Ruby Wax when you need her?

IOME FRONT (8.30pm BBC2) To judge from shows Tranging Rooms, you wouldn't suspect that minimal rigorous Modernism" as purists prefer to call it, has

DIY SHOW OF THE

DAY

rous Modernism" as purists prefer to call it, has ente e defining interior design ethos of the 1990s. Maybe a for designers learnt their trade in the 1980s and have me stuck in their rag-rolling, wrought-iron ways. With raine-style format, Home Front, fronted by Anne McP. It, is more able to play catch up – and can incorporatint stripped-down look, which is itself becoming a citical.

Unfortunately, as soon as The Boy Friend found its place in the narrative, Ted and Barbara vanished from it. The impression generated was that Julie left England and never had anything to do with her parents again.

Instead of pursuing this line of incuring the product of the line in the parents again.

"He's made so many films that are just terrific," he cooed. Obviously he'd forgotten those Pink Fanther movies shot after the death of Peter Sellers and the disastrous 1986 Andrews vehicle That's Life ("Life should have sued," says Thomson). Any documentary which allows you to go to bed thinking that Blake Edwards is some sort of genius must be badly wrong somewhere.

Back to the Floor (BBC2) ended its run last night by sending Pickfords' director Grant Whitaker back to the sweaty end of the removals business. The similar BBC2 lifeswap series, Living will, the Emeny, only served to reinforce the prejudices of the participants, but allowing TV to temporarily turn the masters into the minions has allowed those involved in this series to reap tangible benefits.

True, you watch it for its Schadenfreude value—you're certainly encouraged to enjoy scenes of Whitaker poring over his bilsters and narrowly avoiding getting crushed by a slippery wardrobe. However, by the end of Nicola Bungey's film, the boss man had not only been put through the industrial-relations equivalent of the stocks, but he'd used the experience to make significant improvements to company practice. As a result of the programme, Whitaker workers. State-of-the-art trolleys and mobile phones were issued to all van crews, and casual workers found themselves with full-time contracts. If the Back to the Floor crew turned up in every British workplace, it might

Newsround (S) (T) (2223239), & (T) (8939055). Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (9016581), 3.45
Bananaman (R) (S) (6263210), 3.50 ChuckleVision (R)
(S) (3483806), 4.10 Get Your Own Back (S) (T) (6243111),
4.35 The Queen's Nose (S) (T) (9752061), 5.00
Newsround (S) (T) (2223239), 5.10 Blue Peter (S)

6.00 News; Weather (T) (535).

6.30 Regional News (T) (887)

7.00 A Question of Sport. Another round of the ancient sports quiz. John Parrott and Ally McColst are the team captains, in case you've lost touch (S) (T) (8451).

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Craig Doyle travels to Lapland to try out a hat, underwear and boots made from a revolutionary fabric which conducts electricity (S) (T) (871).

8.00 The Life of Birds. David Attenborough continues his absorbing series with a look at parenthood – from the grebes who line their young ones' stomachs with feathers so they can digest fish to the coot parents who kill off their weakest chicks (S) (T) (6:13055).

8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (S) (T) (376142).

100

9.00 A Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (S) (T) (233697).

10.05 War and Piste, Ski-resort docu-soap. The axe is hanging over resort manager Natasha (S) (T) (120784).

10.35 Best of British: Lenny Henry. A new series of this very popular programme which considers the careers of various comedians. Toright, in this the first of four, Dawn French, Ben Elton, Robbie Coltrans, Tracey Ullman and Chris Tarrant pay tribute to Lenny Henry (1) (256326).

US). Fun and games on an American military base when a majors wife embarks on a torrid affair with her husbands superior officer. Peter Coyote, Courtney Thorne-Smith and Tom Verica "star" in this steamy nonsense (Followed by Westher) (S) (485142).

9.35 One Foot in the Grave. Victor and Margaret battle to rid their home of an evil Moroccan curse in this rerun grumbly crumbly sitcom (R) (S) (T) (315245).

9.05 News; Regional News; Weather (1) (995245).

Joins BBC News 24 (20952543). To 6am.

PROFILE OF THE DAY

BBC

9.00 Business Breekfast (46871). 7.00 News (T) (96245).
9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (5388500). 9.40 Style Challenge (S) (1044852). 10.05 City Hospital (S) (T) (7890429). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (452500). 11.00 Good Living (S) (4842177). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (4645264). 11.56 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (487413). 12.00 Pass the Buck (9249974). 12.25 Going for a Song (S) (9155691). 12.50 The Weather Show (S) (T) (73093603). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (99332). 1.30 Regional News; Weather (45307177). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (97308264). 2.05 Ironside (R) (8355072). 2.85 Battersea Dogs' Home (S) (4527210).

7.30 Proud to be Chinese. As increasing numbers of young Chinese-Americans travel China to discover their families' ancestral villages, Martin Jacques wonders what's going on (S) (T) (413).

8.00 Looking Good. Last of the compilations from previous programmes finds Lowri Turner at last September's London Fashion Week (R) (S) (T) (7871).

Nurse. The conclusion of this excellent series, which has easily transcended the docu-soap genre. Our student nurses have now completed their grueiling three year courses, but was it all worth it? (S) (T) (752239).

aked. "Sod the Wrinkles". Elderly people describe w it feels to have watched their bodles age over time from 85-year-old Michael, still trying for that washboard omach, to 82-year-old Jessle, who has one leg and any other body parts missing due to cancer (308448).

11.20 Brothers and Sisters (S) (304103). v**anight.** With Gordon Brewer (T) (254968).

12.00 Despatch Box (5039036). 12.35 BBC Learning Zone:
Arts - Late: English Only in America? (T) (4978098).
1.00 Yes, We Never Say No (14098). 1.30 Was Anybody
There? (52746). 2.00 Belief Season: The Long Search/
Faith to Faith (64727). 4.00 Languages: Deutsch Plus II
(52497). 5.00 Professional Update - Managing a New
Business (3365036). 5.45 Open University: What You
Never Knew about Sex (8359348). To 6.10am.

BBC2

7.00 Children's BBC: King Greenfingers (R) (S) (62) 7.05 Teletubbles (S) (5197871). 7.30 Yogis Treasu Hunt (R) (819235). 7.55 To Me... to You (R) (S) (T (1115245). 8.20 Funky Phantom (R) (4010719). 8.4: Juniper Jungle (R) (8) (3226581). 8.55 Tales of th Tooth Fairles (R) (8975888). 9.00 King Greenflings (S) (4570429). 9.05 The Phil Silvers Show (79786 9.30 The Great Romances of the Twentleth Centus (S) (T) (45448). 10.00 Teletubbles (S) (86326). eenfingers (R) (7979697), th Century (R)

12.05 The Roadshow Collection (9246887), 12.30
Working Lunch (49284), 1.00 Juniper Jungle (21745622),
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Hour (\$) (7881528), 2.40 Match of the Day Greats (86291332), 2.40 News; Regional News; Weather (6021413), 2.45 Westminster (3825055),
3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9039697),
4.00 Change That (R) (\$) (T) (9112974), 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (9115061), 4.55 Esther (R) (1840635), 8.25 Today's the Day (8925852), 5.50 Lifeline (\$) (T) (178697).
8.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Captain Picard has discovered that Mr Spock has travelled to the evil planet Romulus in an attempt to reunite the Romulans and the Vulcans, What's old pointy ears up to? (147061).

Sliders. The Sliders journey to a new world and find evidence that Rickman may be spreading an infection. However, the inhabitants believe that a mysterious tog responsible for their sickness (S) (T) (364581).

8.30 (CITOTIS Home Front. How to decorate your bedroom with the contents of a disused church. See DIY Show of the Day, below (S) (T) (8806).

9.00

Cusack a lass v by the I Cue rac triumph

10.00 A Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (T) (357516). 10.05 News; Weather (T) (15852).

1**0.35** London Tonight (T) (466806).

10,45 11.15 Vero James on TV. Looking at medical shows, from hey's Casebook to Casually (S) (283429).

12.50 1211/1 Child in the Night (Mike Robe 1990 US).
JoBeth Williams, who deserves better roles than this, plays a child psychologist who helps an eight-year-old boy who is the sole witness to a murder (629611). **nice's Closet** (T) (100142). **11.45** Phil Collins: n Paris (595622).

Hopeful Traveller (7859369), **3.00** Trisha (R) 878), **3.45** Cybernet (99553307), **4.10** Soundtrax 6956), **4.25** ITV Nightscreen (3790543). To 5.30am

DITOIN3 To Be or Not To Be (Ernst Lubitsch 1942 US). Much-loved and – In its day – controversial anti-Nazi satire set in Warsaw in 1939. See Film of the Day, below (T) (84605559).

5.40 0

9.40

7.30

8.00 Find Vorder Show to unclair heirlog

e **Fortune.** Frontsd, irontcally enough, by Cerol srman, who already seems to have found hers. The tries to find owners for millions of pounds of ilmed legacies, cash prizes and even family oms (S) (9581).

therine Cookson's Colour Bilnd. 1/3. Niemh ack (formerly Nick Berry's missus in *Hearlbeat*) plays as who comes home to 1920s Newcastle pregnant he black merchant seaman she has just married. racial prejudice and the usual Cookson theme of nph over tragedy (S) (T) (2245).

11.00 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Colin Mochrie, Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops and Cetherine O'Hara join City Anderson in front of an American audience

3.26 Chii Slow (S) ((4.28 (S) (Ŧ ldren's LTV: Wizadora (R) (8854142). 3.35 The v Norris (S) (301835). 3.45 The Animal Shelf (3005887). 4.00 Rupert (R) (S) (9036500). 5 The Rottentrolls (S) (T) (1304061). 4.40 Mad for it

ne and Away (S) (T) (6812806).

US). Rather a fine little film this, which looks at the build up to a bank robbery in a small Arizona town (Fleischer shot it on location). Lee Marvin is the chief hoodlum, with Victor Mature as the goodle out to stop him (T) (87056622).

3.30 IIII A Stoning in Fulham County (Larry Elikann 1988 US). Thirtysomething's Ken Olin and LA Law's Jill Elkenberry star in this so-so legal drama. A DA must persuade the deeply religious Amish family of a murdered beby to testify against the accused killer in a secular court of law. Okay, as far as it goes, but Wilness it ain't (S) (7612784).

/s; Weather (T) (704448).

capi bulle I**don Tonight.** Regional news update for the tel and the South-East, including a local weather th (603).

6.30 London Bridge. Capital soap – now doomed, apparently, because of News of Ten's shift to early evening (S) (555).

7.00 Emme terrible very m **onation Street.** Both Roy and Ashley come to swith rejection (T) (239). nerdale. Butch shocks Paddy, and Andy hides a lie secret. Don't they ever have days when nothing much happens? (S) (T) (8177).

8.00

10.00 Rising Damp. Rigsby rushes to protect Ruth after she sees a prowler in her room (T) (16448).

Bob and Margaret. Animated couple. Bob and Margaret worry that babyeitting might turn into fostering when Bob's brother collapses while they are looking after his children (S) (T) (29868).

12.05 Under the Moon. Including Football Italia (2.35am), High Five (4am), Kabaddi (4.30am), and Transworld Sport (5am) (8285104), To 5.55am. 11.30 The Comedy Lab (455055). Carlton

28 Trisha (S) (T) (2887852). 10.15 This Morning (T) (52774784). 12.20 Your Shout (6901603). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (36790). 1.00 London Today (T) (1500). 1.30 Christmas Home in the Country (8395603). 2.15 Home and Away (S) (T) (883595). 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (233036). 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (8947806). 3.20 London Today (T) (894719).

9.35 IIIM The Revolt of Marnie Stover (Raoul Walsh 1956 US). Jane Russell in a Technicolor Honolulu – it's almost too much at this lime of the morning. The year is 1941 and our Jane is a rightclub singer (T) (94325993).

The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (16055). 9.00 Cosby (9597784).

6.00

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 16 December 1998

Channel

Capriccio (3576719), 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (5061). 12.00 Sesame Street (15719), 12.30 Bewitched (T) (34332), 1.00 Judge Joe Brown (T) (19142), 1.30 Roots to Success (45218239).

O 5 News and Sport (S) (6396332), 7.00 Widg/World (R) (S) (T) (6154719), 7.30 Milkshake! (S) (2793719), 7.35 Winizle's House (R) (S) (6358622), 8.00 Havaka.co.υ (R) (S) (7769974), 8.30 Dappletown Farm (7768245), 8.00 Housebusters (R) (S) (T) (3229784), 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (4154142), 9.30 The Oprath Winfrey Show (8310871), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (9792023), 11.10 Leeza (R) (S) (8635603), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7762061), 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (221087), 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6146790), 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2219142), 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1683622), 2.30 Good Affarnoon (S) (2264697).

6.00 3.20 Collectors' Lot (T) (8855577). 3.80 The Fifteen to One Final (T) (9573784). 4.30 Countdown (T) (9573500). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S) (T) (7808055). 5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (332).

Lete Lunch with Mel and Sue. Lulu, Eddle izzard and Ron Alkinson are the duo's prandlel retards (42351).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show which seems to have been inspired by illegal interrogation techniques – such as isolating the contestants and bombarding them with rapid repetitive questioning (S) (2598061).

5.20 The Roseanne Show. Barry Manilow is her guest (9269516).

6.30 Family Affairs. Jack is terrified when Annie tells him she knows everything and is going to the police (S) (T) (2416443)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather, including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (981887).

7.00 5 News. You wonder how long it'll be before they bring out a doll based on Kirsty Young. You can see the advertising: "she waks... she reads the news" (S) (T) (1561210).

7.30 The Pepsi Chart. Bille, the Spice Girls, and Beautiful South are on a final push before Christmas (S)

7.50 Artranspennine. Features an installation at the River Mediock by Ian Rawlinson, Nick Crowe and Graham Parker (T) (144790).

Brookside. Antheas proposal leaves Ron in a state of shock and Lindsey shows Jacqui who's boss (S) (T) (9239).

8.00 Leonardo DiCaprio. Prolife of the baby-faced Hollywood Idol. The programme begins with an archive interview with DiCaprio at the age of 17, before going on to analyse his appeal (T) (6739245).

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8.30 The Real Holiday Show. "Two women from Gloucestershire take to the American highways in true Theims and Louise style", it says here. Let's hope not for their sakes. Plus, a week at Butlin's (1) (4974).

8.00 [SIDIN] Johnny Meets Madonna. "Johnny" as in Vaughan, in case you were wondering. See Profile of the Day, below (1) (3577).

Allegedly "erotic" thriller starring Linda Harmitton as a psychology professor who asks a student of hers, an ex-cop (played by James Belushi) to shadow her as she is worried that her alter ego might have committed a murder. As far as split personally yerns go, this is on the sillier fringe. Needless to say, our man fails for Hamilton's darker side (T) (6732332).

100 Melinda's Big Night In. La Messenger hears from Meera Sysi, Katie Puckrik and Toby Ansils (S) (2491413)

11.40 Compromising Situations (R) (7200210). 12.15 NHL – American Ice Hockey: St Louis Blues vs Dalias Stars (33566017). 4.40 Club Class (R) (S) (81666475). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (19396746). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (7228882). To 6am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

Remote Control



video, if you need to, for Ernst Lubitsch's funny and audacious waritme black comedy about a troupe of Polish actors attempting to hoodwink the Gestapo and save the Warsaw underground. It was the last film by spirited actress Carole Lombard (right). She died in a plane crash two weeks after completion, flying to Washington to sell war bonds (fronically, on a radio show hosted by her To Be or Not to Be co-star Jack Benny). The film proved highly controversial on its release in 1942 – some people saw it as insulting to the Poles. Mel Brooks remade it competently in 1983.



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